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20 April 1983

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No. 2667

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POWER COMPANY MEETS RESISTANCE IN BID FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Anticipated Fuel Bill

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Light and Power Company expects to pay \$50.9 million for fuel this year.

Managing director Mr. Frank McConney said yesterday that while the basic cost of electricity had risen just twice over the 1968 price, the price of fuel had risen 10 times over that figure.

The power company's managing director yesterday gave the Public Utilities Board a run down of the reasons why it should grant the company the 8.8 cents per kwh increase in basic rates it is asking.

In a document entitled "Why the Light and Power needs the money in 1983," Mr. McConney showed that besides its \$50.9 million fuel bill, the company also needs \$21.3 million to pay suppliers, employees and Government for materials, wages and taxes; \$10.6 million to pay lenders for interest and commitment fees; \$14.6 million to repay principal amounts on loans borrowed in the past; \$277 500 to pay preference dividends; \$3.18 million to pay ordinary shareholder dividends; \$10.8 million to build new lines to extend its service to new and existing customers; \$7.25 million to reduce its bank overdraft and \$1.5 million to provide additional working capital.

Its total cash requirements this year amount to \$120.2 million.

Mr. McConney said that the sources of this money if the rates were granted would come from the sale of electricity to consumers to the tune of \$113.8 million; the sale of shares which will bring in \$3.8 million and new bank loans which will amount to \$2.4 million.

Under cross-examination by attorney-at-law Mr. Asquith Phillips who is appearing for objector Dr. Richie Haynes, Mr. McConney said that Mobil Oil supplied the company with its fuel and the source of the oil was Venezuela and Woodbourne in Barbados.

He agreed with Mr. Phillips that the price of oil was presently falling but when questioned as to whether this downward trend had been taken into account by the company in estimating future costs, Mr. McConney said that the company had asked the oil company to supply it with its best estimates for this year and no attempt had been made to modify them.

Mr. McConney said that any over-estimation by the company in the price of fuel would not be a problem since the revenue collected through customer bills would be offset by that amount.

He explained that the revenue collected through the fuel charge was exactly equal to the cost of fuel minus the 2.64 cents provided for in the basic rates.

Call for Financial Statement

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. Gilbert Brandford, chairman of the Public Utilities Board has asked the Barbados Light and power Company to provide a completed financial statement for 1982.

Mr. Frank McConney, managing director of the company, yesterday produced part of the 1982 financial statement at the hearing into the company's application for an 8.8 cents per kwh increase in the basic rates.

But objector Senator Wendell McClean requested the additional information and the chairman asked the company to produce it.

Mr. Brandford made the point that it was now 1983 and as much factual information as possible up to the end of 1982 would be useful to the proceedings.

He said that this would make it much easier for the Board to come up with a fair decision.

And he added that the company should have anticipated what the Board's ruling would be in respect of these matters.

World Bank Action

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The World Bank has agreed with the decision of the Barbados Light and Power Company to reschedule its expansion programme, but the European Investment Bank did not.

These are two of the banks which the power company has entered into loan contracts with to finance the five year programme.

Mr. Frank McConney, managing director of the company said yesterday that the company has informed all the banks with which it has entered into loan agreements that the company was likely to put in default on certain of its financial covenants.

Under cross-examination by attorney-at-law Mr. Asquith Phillips who is appearing for objector Dr. Richie Haynes, he, however, said that the company has not asked these banks to give permission for the overdraft to be increased.

He said that they had informed the banks of plans to reschedule and modify the expansion programme to deal with recession and a cut back in the demand for electricity.

While the World Bank had indicated that it understood the reasons for this, the European Investment Bank was very optimistic about a turn about in the economic conditions in the Caribbean.

This bank did not agree with restricting the programme in any way, he said, because it felt that the projects will be needed in the future.

In answer to Mr. Phillips, Mr. McConney said that the power company had not approached any of the banks to re-negotiate any of the loans, an exercise which he predicted would be horrendous.

He said that in his experience, banks did not re-negotiate contracts such as those which the power company had entered into and even if this happened, he said, the financial covenants would be even more restrictive.

In respect of the overdraft situation, he said that the World Bank had recommended that the company should keep its overdraft as close to zero as possible.

He said that it was prudent for companies to operate with a zero overdraft position and have an overdraft line of credit which they could call upon in emergency situations.

Mr. McConney, in answer to Mr. Phillips, said that it was not unusual for businesses to have an overdraft of zero and if an overdraft on a permanent basis was anticipated then it should be converted into a loan.

Government Responsibilities

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. Frank McConney, managing director of the Barbados Light and Power Company, has made it clear that if the cash the company needs to meet its financial covenants is not supplied through increased rates, it will have to be supplied by Government.

Government has guaranteed three major loans which the power company entered into to finance its five year expansion programme.

Mr. McConney told the hearing into the company's application for an increase in its basic rates yesterday that the company had no money..."the power company is merely a collector of cash which flows from the customers to the oil suppliers or whoever else we must pay".

The managing director said whatever went before, in the final analysis, the cash required to operate the company must be sufficient to meet its obligations.

Mr. McConney said that the power company's bank overdraft now stood at \$7.6 million and was expected to rise to \$15 million by Monday. He added that the company had an overdraft limit of \$10 million.

If urgent discussions with authorities in Barbados now under way, do not have a positive outcome, the company also expects to default on a loan payment of \$5.8 million to the Royal Bank of Nassau which is due on Monday, he said.

He said that the company was already in default of its \$2.95 million fuel bill which was due to be paid last February 28.

He said that the company was also technically in default on its loan contract in respect of the rate of return, the cash reserve and the overdraft covenants.

Mr. McConney said that if the rates requested were turned down, the \$10 million construction programme planned for this year would suffer considerably.

Under cross-examination by objector Senator Wendell McClean, he said that if the company felt that it could sell more than \$3.8 million in shares this year to private individuals in Barbados it would put more on the market.

Senator McClean suggested that in the light of the company's financial predicament, it should sell more shares but the company's managing director said that the company had no intention of putting Government in the position of being a buyer of last resort.

He said that the company had taken advice on the share issue and had been told that it was optimistic even to put its proposed share issue on the market this year.

CSO: 3298/469

REPORT EMPHASIZES NEED FOR ALTERNATE ENERGY RESOURCES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Bermuda must create alternate energy resources immediately if it is to lessen its total dependence on imported oil.

That was the message contained in a 200-page report titled "Bermuda's Energy Future" delivered to the Premier, the Hon. John Swan, yesterday by the Bermuda Biological Station.

The result of a 1981 Biological Station conference held to look into Bermuda's energy needs, the report shows that Bermuda has done little to lessen its reliance on oil brought to the Island by ship.

"We should try to reduce this total dependence on imported oil through the immediate implementation of mature technologies," said Dr. Wolfgang Sterrer, Director of the Biological Station, last night. Dr. Sterrer is one of three editors of the report.

"We have not reduced our energy consumption as other countries have in response to the oil price increases of the 1970s. We've been going on as if nothing has happened."

Dr. Sterrer said that despite recent events in the world oil market which have led to an oil glut and drop in oil prices, the earth's oil reserves are being depleted.

The report recommends that the Island look into alternate energy resources that use proven "mature technologies"--such as solar/thermal panels; waste heat recovery; and solid waste recovery.

Solar energy is already used in Bermuda, but the technology locally to develop it is still in the early stages.

The report also suggests that the Island investigate other technologies that are currently being developed, but which have yet to be made economically feasible.

The study determined that Bermuda uses per capita as much energy as the United States.

"We have not reduced that dependency, nor our energy consumption," said Dr. Sterrer, adding that the report suggests the immediate implementation of a crisis plan to stockpile oil in the event oil supplies are cut off.

The report is being circulated to Members of Parliament, in addition to schools and libraries. It will go on sale at bookstores at a price of \$6.

CSO: 3298/470

BRIEFS

NEW POWER PLANT—A \$5.7 million contract for civil engineering work at the Bermuda Electric Light Company's new power plant was signed yesterday by Belco and contractors Sea-Land Construction Ltd. The formal signing of the 100-plus page contract took place at Belco's Serpentine Road headquarters. It includes the bulk of the work to set foundations and construction of buildings to house the generating plant that will cost in excess of \$30 million. Belco General Manager Mr. Alf Oughton said that the completion date of the plant already under construction had been put back eight weeks because of problems encountered in digging for the foundations. "We found hard rock 30 feet down--rock the experts didn't tell us about," said Mr. Oughton, adding that the design for setting the foundations had to be redone. Completion date for the power plant has now been pushed back to the first week of May, 1984. Signing the contract yesterday were Mr. Oughton and Mr. Kenneth Hodgson, Deputy Manager of Belco; and from Sea-Land Mr. Andrew Cooper, President of the construction company; and Mr. Tony Howarth, Project Co-ordinator for Sea-Land. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Feb 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/470

URUGUAY-UK TALKS ON WAR DEAD

Permission to Visit Dead Soldiers Graves

PY301602 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Undated interview with Argentine Foreign Ministry Chief Adviser Gustavo Figueroa, place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Figueroa] Yesterday the Uruguayan foreign minister informed Argentine Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari of the move made by a group of Argentine citizens with the Uruguayan Government to gain permission to visit the graves of the Argentine soldiers who died so bravely in the Malvinas.

Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari listened to the Uruguayan foreign minister's report for humanitarian reasons. A person [not further identified] has been making these moves with the British Government through the Uruguayan Government, on behalf of the relatives of the dead Argentine soldiers. The Argentine Foreign Ministry has raised no objections to this for humanitarian reasons.

[Question] Please sir, I would like to ask you a last question. Do you mean to say that the Argentine Foreign Ministry does not object to the moves?

[Answer] Yes, the Argentine Foreign Ministry does not object to them.

Interview With Falklands Commissioner

PY010052 Montevideo Raio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Undated telephone interview granted by Rex Hunt, civil commissioner on the Falkland Islands to Radio El Espectador; in English followed by translation into Spanish--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Hello, Mr Hunt?

[Answer] (?Good morning, sir. Please) speak.

[Question] Good morning, sir. I am talking to you from Radio El Espectador of Montevideo, Uruguay. Do you speak Spanish, sir?

[Answer] That is a silly question to ask the civil commissioner of the Falkland Islands. I do not speak Spanish.

[Question] Mr Hunt, cables from different international press agencies insert in their notes that you said yesterday that the Uruguayan Government forced Mrs Thatcher to accept that Argentinian citizens go to Malvinas, Falklands, in order to visit the tombs of the soldiers. Is that true?

[Answer] No, I did not say anything like that.

[Question] Mr Hunt?

[Answer] (Just a moment.)

[Question] I did not say that. I did not say anything like this to any radio or to any newspaper.

[Question] Mr Hunt, what do you think about the Uruguayan position in this case?

[Answer] When I was asked about the Uruguayan attitude I said I could not speak for the Uruguayan Government and that people making direct questions should ask the Uruguayan Government and not me. I cannot speak for the Uruguayan Government.

[Question] Mr Hunt, a last question. How is life now at Port Stanley 1 year after the war.

[Answer] Speaking honestly, much better now than they were before the war.

[Question] Mr Hunt, what are the soldiers of the task force doing now?

[The announcer's Spanish translation of the above question reads in English as follows: "Mr Hunt, what are Great Britain's security forces currently doing in the Malvinas?"]

[Answer] They are busy reconstructing their damaged [word indistinct] and attending to their [word indistinct] as best they can through the minefields that were left by the Argentines.

[The announcer's Spanish translation to the above answer reads in English as follows: "They are occupied at this time so that the weapons will be at the ready to face any type of eventuality if the Argentines violate the critical point of fire."]

[Announcer] Mr Rex Hunt, CX14 El Espectador from Montevideo, Uruguay, thank you for this interview.

[Hunt] Right, thank you very much indeed.

CSO: 3348/293

EDITORIAL URGES GREATER USE OF COURTS TO REDRESS INJUSTICE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 19 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Over the years Belize has been run by a group of politicians who did, and continue today to do, as they please. During their span in office, countless numbers of people have been victimized out of their jobs, out of a piece of land, etc. In fact, their constitutional rights have been trampled on. But the victims have not stopped and realized that the courts are there to uphold our constitutional rights and to protect us from people infringing on our sacred constitutional rights.

What we are saying is that people must begin to use the courts more often. Belize now has scores of lawyers whom are competent as anyone can find within our region.

We have noticed that a number of civil servants have taken this initiative. They have also made it publicly clear that they have no confidence in the Belize Advisory Council. And rightly so, since the Advisory Council is made up of a vast majority of people who are loyal to the PUP Government. The courts, on the other hand, is our only salvation from injustices. We must make sure that our court Judges continue to function, as they do now, independently of political interference.

Let us begin to use the court when we feel that our constitutional rights have been trampled upon. Let us begin to bombard the courts with petitions and applications and affidavits. Let us use the Courts since this is our only way of getting justice and fair play in this country.

CSO: 3298/475

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN TOURISM—Tourist arrivals last month leapt by 27 percent over January, 1982, spelling some relief for the Island's major industry despite a deepening recession in the United States. In numbers, however, that increase represented only 2,252 more tourists than the 8,345 who visited Bermuda in the same month last year and does not appear to signal a trend for the coming months. The 1983 figures still fall short of the 11,885 visitors recorded in 1981 by 1,288. Figures released by the Department of Tourism yesterday show that the 10,095 tourists arriving by air last month were up by 21 percent over January, 1982; visitors from the US, numbering 8,371, were up 24.2 percent; visitors from Canada totalling 952 were up 2.3 percent; visitors from the UK, numbering 417, were up 10.9 percent; and other European visitors totalling 154 were up 12.4 percent. [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 Feb 83 p 1]

'BUGGED' PLP OFFICE—An electronic "bugging" device has been discovered in the ceiling of offices of the Progressive Labour Party chairman, Mr. Alex Scott. Mr. Scott said the device came to light more than a week ago when workmen were carrying out repairs in the Arcade Building where Scott Crafts advertising agency operates. It seemed to be a sophisticated piece of equipment, said Mr. Scott, and it was now being examined to determine exactly what it was. "I don't know who put in there. It seems to be some sort of relay device." Mr. Scott's comments came last night after Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. Frederick Wade told the House of Assembly that a device had been discovered. Mr. Wade also remarked on the "coincidence" of the Premier making a statement on the use of satellite technology only a day after the PLP had discussed the same issue in a private session. Mr. Scott said that the Premier's statement was in places "word for word" similar to the PLP's report. "I can only say that it was a coincidence," he said. But Mr. Scott added: "During the last election we continually had the feeling that our information was very quickly appearing in other places." [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Mar 83 pp 1, 13]

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CHARGE—The Hon. John Stubbs should be disqualified from heading the Ministry of Industry and Technology because of a conflict of interest, the Opposition Progressive Labour Party has claimed. The conflict charge was levelled in the House of Assembly on Friday by Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. Frederick Wade. It came after Dr. Stubbs told the House that he had a small share stake in a holding company that owns Bermuda Computer Services

(BCS). Bermuda Computer Services is the local agent for computer giants IBM-- from whom Government has bought a computer system for its central data processing unit. "Such an involvement disqualifies him from being Minister of a new Ministry designed to bring Bermuda into the 21st century," said Mr. Wade. Government, said Mr. Wade, has been "riddled" with conflict of interest. "This is the newest example in the newest Ministry." [Excerpts]
[Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 3298/478

SIX FARC FRONTS EXPRESS INTEREST IN PACIFICATION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Text] The leaders of six fronts of the self-named FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] that operate in Magdalena Medio sent a message to the chairman of the Peace Commission, former minister Otto Morales Benitez, expressing their desire to contribute to the pacification of the country. They asked for a dialogue with officials.

Former minister Morales Benitez commented on the proposal. He indicated that he has not received the letter but is willing to talk with the rebels any day and place they indicate.

It should also be noted that when the agrarian reform law went into effect, the Texas Petroleum Company gave INCORA [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute] more than 300,000 hectares to distribute to tenant farmers.

Although the authenticity of the letter from the guerrilla leaders has not been verified, this newspaper decided to make it public in the interest of contributing to pacification of the country.

The text of the FARC letter follows:

Mr Chairman and other members of the Peace Commission
Attention: Dr Otto Morales Benitez

Distinguished compatriots:

The general staffs of the 4th, 10th, 12th, 16th, 19th and 22nd Fronts of FARC-EP [Army of the People] in Magdalena Medio recognize the noble task that you are promoting for the good of the Colombian fatherland. We express to you our great willingness to dialogue for the cause of peace which our beloved people deeply desire.

Violence has afflicted us for a long time: since oil exploration and development were handed over to imperialist companies like the Texas Petroleum Company which have taken possession of the soil and subsoil of the rich Magdalena Medio valley. They have absolute dominion, ousting peasants with state approval. The army is placed at their service, imposing systematic and massive terror and denying the right of the Colombians to benefit from their own natural resources.

The process of violently plundering the peasantry has become stronger with the advance of a voracious landowning system that converts the fertile crop land into land for massive livestock use, driving the tenant farmers to the mountain. It is tied to the capitalist development of an oligarchy linked with imperialism and bases its power on monopolistic control of a growing concentration of industrial, commercial and financial capital. When this was added to the persistent wave of official violence, it led to resistance by the peasantry in alliance with the agricultural proletariat to defend their lives and parcels of land.

That is a short history of the *raison d'être* of our guerrilla existence. The guerrilla movement of FARC-EP arose from the popular resistance.

In Magdalena Medio there is a serious situation of neglect due to poverty, tropical diseases, a lack of services and communication, illiteracy and unemployment. The frequent massacres committed by the paramilitary and secret troops that sow terror and destruction as occurred and occurs now in Cano Baul, Santa Helena del Opon, San Juan Bosco and Vuelta Acuna can be added. This enrages the people and violates their human, political, social and economic rights under the imperialist doctrine of "national security."

We have the calm conviction that the masses who, through their support, have made us invincible will know how to overcome all the obstacles to open the way to the peaceful and democratic coexistence of Colombians. We are sure that if the military operations of repression against the peasantry do not stop and if the action of the cowardly assassins of MAS [expansion unknown] under the auspices of the army, rich cattlemen of FEDEGAN [Colombian Cattle-men's Association] and FADEGAN, landowners and imperialist companies like Texas do not cease, there will be a resounding response from the popular movement and its organizations. They will rise up in defense of life and for the conquest of their democratic rights and authentic peace.

The FARC-EP, formed by massive moral and human reserves, hoists the banner of peace in its program. We want it more than anyone. We are soldiers, builders and workers for peace but we are aware that it only will be achieved through in-depth economic, social and political changes that express the recovery aspirations of the Colombian people.

We are fervent advocates of peace. We work and we will work for a democratic opening based on an advanced political reform. Below we present feasible conditions for this:

1. The immediate end of military operations, demilitarization of the peasant zones and return of the troops to their barracks.
2. Dissolution of MAS and punishment for its crimes, tortures and genocide.
3. Democratization of the armed forces, beginning with expulsion from its ranks of members of MAS and a call to evaluate the services of officers who oppose peace.
4. Reestablishment of full democratic freedom and respect for the union and political organizations in the zones where they have been banned by the militarist violence.

5. Rehabilitation of the militarized agrarian regions and indemnity for those affected by official violence.
6. Return of the land acquired by members of the army and the police in so-called war zones.
7. Changes in the living conditions of the Colombian people based on the practical recognition of their social, economic and political rights.
8. Abandonment of the doctrine of "national security" and "limited democracy."

We have expressed the objective reasons for our guerrilla existence and our presence in the jungle and mountains of Magdalena Medio, the justice of our armed fight for national liberation in which we are proudly a part and the concrete proposals to work together for peace.

As a clear indication of our state of mind and affirmation of our desire for peace, we want to tell you that we had to mobilize in the midst of enormous difficulties to hold a meeting of the general staffs of the fronts which signed this document. We had to travel day and night through the jungle and mountain, evade mobile army detachments on the plains and shores of the Magdalena and even break through military blockades.

We come to you so that, through your valuable influence for the cause of peace, a dialogue will be advocated here in Magdalena Medio with the top civilian government and others you designate, including journalists who have the right to inform themselves and the duty to objectively inform our people. There is only one condition: the region where we hold the meeting must be demilitarized for the security of the lives of all. We commanders of the fronts who signed this document will attend accompanied by the general staff of each participating front. The objectives of the meeting will be to stipulate the conditions for democratic peace in Magdalena Medio and to make some very interesting revelations concerning the great task you are doing.

We have clear objectives of social transformation that commit us to the people. They must be discussed and put into effect to end the struggle. We are not terrorists but revolutionary patriots who have traveled the same road, in the 20th century, as the heroic people and the patriotic army did; we are legitimate heirs of Galan and Bolivar.

We await your historic visit to Magdalena Medio. We call for your attention to the forces interested in peace, the officers and soldiers who repudiate torture and the crimes of MAS and all the patriots so that, in homage to the bicentennial of the birth of the Liberator, their voices and their actions for the national objective of peace, life and democratic coexistence become stronger.

Cordially,

General Staffs of the 4th, 10th, 12th, 16th, 19th and 22nd fronts of the glorious FARC-EP

Morales Benitez Speaks

We held the following dialogue with former minister Morales Benitez concerning this letter.

[Question] Dr Morales Benitez, what do you, as chairman of the Peace Commission, think about the letter?

[Answer] The letter is addressed to me but I have not received it. However, it is necessary to celebrate the spirit of peace that inspires it. They propose a dialogue to which I am open at any day and place they indicate. Our mission is constant dialogue with all Colombians. Our work cannot be interrupted, delayed or neglected. We are willing to travel throughout the country to meet with whomever necessary.

I hope that personal contacts are made with the representatives of the fronts that signed the letter. In that way, we will be able to agree on details, etc., assuming the letter is authentic. At times, there are surprises. The fact is that the Peace Commission and President Betancur have received letters from Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jaime Guaraca and Jacobo Arenas in which they again show their desire for peace and their determination to achieve and consolidate this. We are going to hold new meetings with them.

[Question] But the letter establishes a series of conditions. Are you in the position to resolve these requests?

[Answer] We have always said that the Peace Commission is not a negotiating commission. We are not in the position to receive requests. We can explain the scope of the amnesty law and its complementary decrees and how the political reform will be developed. This gives the soldiers the chance to enter democratic life and continue the fight in another environment with other prospects. Neither I nor any of the members of the commission have the ability to resolve requests. At the Peace Banquet, the president said that the government has already given all it can give. This does not exclude listening to the people. We must listen to all, even to explain how far we can go and what the government policy is. We are always open to dialogue.

[Question] Do you think there is progress in pacification?

[Answer] The commission does and the president shares that feeling that we are advancing toward pacification. We have had success and we will continue having it, but with many difficulties and silently at times. Some soldiers are entering peace but do not want to make a declaration immediately. They allege that they need to go to other places, etc., before revealing this publicly. But they are already at peace. They do not expect to be disturbed, persecuted or attacked. Fortunately, there is an awareness that peace must be imposed in the country and that it is fragile. We must all take care of it.

[Question] But the people are concerned since there seems to be a resurgence of violence. What can you tell us?

[Answer] It is necessary to separate the problems. There is a large escalation of common crime. The people have the tendency to combine everything. There are also enemies of peace. There are sectors that believe that repression is the only way to overcome all the difficulties. However, the president is dividing the problems: one is related to the amnesty and the soldiers; another is common crime. The latter will be punished implacably. All technical resources will be used.

We are not going to let ourselves be subjected to terrorism or abduction. We are not going to drop the banner of peace at the first problem, either. It is necessary to ask all Colombians not to create problems, not to specialize in maintaining a negative attitude toward the efforts for pacification, not to set up every type of obstacle so that the soldiers become convinced that there is no other solution than to continue fighting. It is necessary to create a climate against common crime and another to advance in the pacification process. If we continue advancing, common crime will be easier to fight.

7717

CSO: 3348/280

BISHOP, BOUTERSE TRAVEL WITH FIDEL TO NEW DELHI

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 13 Mar 83 p 12

[Article by Julio Garcia]

[Text]



WE HAD to wait a good half an hour before landing in New Delhi while our IL-62 flew in circles over the huge city because there were several planes ahead of us. Presidents and prime ministers, kings and emirs, excellencies and majesties all converged on the bedecked Indian capital where the sun was shining brightly to welcome the heads of state or government arriving to participate in the 7th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries. They arrived one after the other from all over the world, leaving behind them a busy picture of planes of all colors and flags lined up at the airport.

The president of Cuba and chairman of the Movement arrived after a journey that lasted 38 hours and 13 minutes. From Havana we flew in a wide arc that took us over Newfoundland and then across the Atlantic to Shannon, Ireland for a stopover. From there it was over Riga, Moscow and broad stretches of the Soviet Union for a brief stay in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. Then it was on to India.

Making the trip with Fidel and his delegation were two young, dynamic revolutionary leaders from the Caribbean who were Fidel's guests: Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada and Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse, leader of the process in Suriname. Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Márquez was also on board.

As is usually the case with Fidel on such journeys, he was busy every minute. He spent part of the over 15-hour flight to Tashkent working on the speech he would give at

the Summit. Time was also set aside for long talks with Bishop and Bouterse about the international situation, the non-aligned and the outlook for the New Delhi Summit.

He presented both leaders with autographed copies in English of the report in book form he prepared with the help of a group of Cuban economists about the economic and social crisis shaking the world, its impact on the underdeveloped countries in particular, and the need to struggle if we want to survive. The book, printed in the four official languages of the Movement, has as its prologue a message from Fidel to the leaders of the world, in particular of the non-aligned. It will be given first of all to the heads of delegations in New Delhi. Bishop and Bouterse were the first to receive a copy.

The prime minister of Grenada started reading it right away, underlining the parts which especially interested him, and by the time we reached Tashkent he had almost finished it. He said it was very impressive and remarked that preparing it represented an amazing effort given the limited time available.

When we flew over the vicinity of Moscow, Fidel radioed a message to Yuri Andropov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Party and government.

It was interesting that Tashkent should have been the start of the last leg of the journey. It was in this city that Cuba's peace efforts with the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan started in 1980 after taking over the chair of the Movement. Thus the place is linked to Cuba's activity

as head of the Movement. It is located in the heart of Central Asia, in a region which 60 years ago consisted of deserts plagued by famine, ignorance, national hatred and ruthless plunder. Today it is a haven of prosperity: the big cotton-producing center of the Soviet Union. But when flying a little further south, over the Pamir, the Hindu Kush or the harsh, snow-covered Himalayas, there is a difference of light years as we come face to face with the material, social and human problems of our time. Thus, flying over Tashkent is like going through a book filled with overwhelming truths, a treatise on underdevelopment and the means for overcoming it.

We landed in Tashkent early Saturday evening and spent the night there.

Fidel arrived in Tashkent on the fourth day of spring, which comes earlier to this southern region. Mid-Sunday morning Fidel was picked up at his residence by Sharaf Rashidov, general secretary of the Party in Uzbekistan and alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU, and also a writer of note. Rashidov accompanied Fidel on a tour of the city. The Cuban leader had been there 20 years ago on his first visit to the Soviet Union. Then in April 1966 it was destroyed by an earthquake. Now virtually everything is new, the houses, the squares, the public buildings. They bear

the stamp of Oriental culture but the lines and styles are modern.

First, Fidel visited the beautiful Palace of Friendship with the Peoples, built in marble and classical ceramics, and then went out to the square before the Palace. From there he was able to see the new city center and noted admiringly that Uzbekistan had changed a great deal and he couldn't recognize it.

Then he went to see the huge statue of Lenin in the square, named after him and which is the site of all important ceremonies, where he laid a wreath.

Fidel and his delegation crossed the esplanade to enter the Tashkent subway. They stopped for a moment at October Revolution station and then at the one named after the great Uzbek poet Jamid Alimdzhan. The people were pleasantly surprised when they encountered Fidel suddenly and would applaud warmly.

Then Fidel went to the Lenin kolkhoz, where citrus fruit is produced.

The general director there is Fahrutdinov Zainiddin, a farmer who only went to school for seven years but now possesses the title of Academician of Honor of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences. He deserves credit for patiently growing new varieties of citrus fruit of high quality and yield. He accompanied Fidel on a tour of the greenhouses and answered the latter's innumerable questions about his work. Then he asked his guest to taste the lemons and tangerines which Fidel said were excellent. He also presented Fidel with a chapkan, the typical smock worn by Uzbek farmers, and a dubutetka, the traditional embroidered black cap, and helped him put them on.

When they said their good-byes, Fidel invited Fahrutdinov to visit Cuba, suggesting that he come during the citrus fruit harvest. Fidel embraced him warmly, wished him a long life and that he "continue to grow new varieties."

Finally, there was a tour of several avenues in Tashkent, where we could see construction under way everywhere, including projects like the new TV tower. Then it was back to the plane for the three-hour flight to New Delhi, where we arrived in late afternoon.

Now the Cuban president is here, ready to end the mandate given to him at the 6th Summit. I would say he is more ready than ever to continue the unending mandate of commitment to the revolutionary movement and to this family of peoples who dare to dream of peace and an indispensable minimum of justice in this difficult, inflammable, paradoxical world of the end of the century. Tomorrow will be a big day. Many people here have the same feeling, as do the Cubans at the Summit and all our people.

New Delhi, March 6, 1983

FARAH ON INTERNATIONAL AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 27 Feb 83 p 9

[Text]

● FOR THE last ten years Cuban engineers, architects, technicians and construction workers have been helping build housing projects and other major works in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of a new spirit of cooperation between Third World countries.

This cooperation began in 1973, when Peru was hit by an earthquake. On that occasion Cuba donated six hospitals. "Later, this form of aid was extended to other countries," said Government Minister Levi Farah, "and at present there are some 7000 Cubans working in over ten countries."

Cooperation in construction includes topographical studies and drawing up of plans, the production of materials and prefabricated sections, territorial and structural organization of the enterprises for civil construction, and planning and construction of reservoirs, bridges, roads, schools, dairies and hospitals.

Minister Farah said that Cuban aid is provided in two forms: as donations and on a commercial basis.

The former is designed for countries with practically no resources and therefore it is provided free as a contribution from the Cuban people, Party and government to the development of those countries.

The latter is given to countries with more developed economies and with which Cuba also maintains relations and which have to contract foreign enterprises to do their construction work.

Farah said that cooperation in the form of donation is provided to Nicaragua, Grenada, Guinea, Mozambique, Tanzania (where the work has been completed), Lao and Vietnam; and through contracts to Libya, Angola and Iraq.

Cooperation through contracts will be extended to two other countries, he said. Offers for the construction of a highway and several farms and towns in the Congo and an airport and a highway in Algeria had been made.

Farah visited Algiers in 1981 and Brazzaville in 1982 to set up the arrangements for this construction work. In the case of the Congo, Cuba has already donated a plant for turning out prefabricated sections for housing projects which is already in operation.

Minister Farah said that this type of cooperation in the field of construction has important economic and social value for both Cuba and the countries which receive it.

"The work done by the Cuban construction workers in other countries remains as a lasting example of their efforts, which have earned the admiration of those peoples and have furthered good relations between Cuba and the countries where they work.

"The Cuban construction workers are very conscious of the laws and customs of the countries where they are rendering their services and their relations with the people there are based on respect for those practices."

He said that cooperation in construction abroad is also a source of income for Cuba and that, according to talks held with representatives of several governments, more contracts will be signed in the future.

The Caribe Union of Construction Enterprises

(UNECA), in charge of these projects, was founded in late 1978 to channel and extend external cooperation in construction abroad, which was formerly handled by the Foreign Assistance Division of the Ministry of Construction.

Cooperation according to area is as follows: Vietnam and Lao (Asia); Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Guinea and the Congo (Africa); Libya, Iraq and in the near future Algeria (Arab countries); and Nicaragua and Grenada (Americas).

The construction of an international airport in Grenada called for a complex piece of engineering, including cutting down on the size of a mountain and draining and filling a bay.

"The obstacles posed by the topography in the construction of the airport in Grenada have been gradually overcome and the work is going at an acceptable pace. Of course, tourism is an important source of income for Grenada and the existing air terminal is too small to handle the tourist flow," Farah said.

"The first stage of the coast-to-coast highway in Nicaragua has been completed, and we are now helping in the repairs to bridges and houses damaged by the heavy rains. Other projects include the installation of five plants for the manufacture of prefabricated sections for housing."

He added that only 30 kilometers remained to be built on a 150-kilometer road in Guinea and that a prefabricated sections plant that was built in that country was already in operation.

In Angola, a total of 2200 houses and 50 bridges have been built. A further 2000 houses are being built in six provinces in the interior of the country, along with a water distribution center in Luanda, he said.

Regarding the Arab countries, Farah said that several highways have been built in Libya and Iraq. One of the highways built in Iraq is 150 kilometers long. Work in Libya includes construction of schools, houses and other public works, including a new housing project.

In Ethiopia, two highways were finished six months ahead of schedule and work is now going on in the construction of a cement plant, donated by the German Democratic Republic and built jointly.

This work has been given added momentum by the emulation campaign established by the National Trade Union of Construction Workers of Cuba among its workers abroad.

Farah said that every year the workers, brigades and enterprises that distinguished themselves the most are given recognition for their work and that this constitutes a moral incentive for the thousands of Cuban internationalist workers in construction.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA--The Cuban Council of State has appointed Lazaro Cabezas Gonzalez new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Guyana. Prior to his appointment, Cabezas held the post of advisor in the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [PA021950 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 83]

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE--The Council of State has appointed the diplomat Alberto Boza Hidalgo as Cuban extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to the French Government. At the time of his appointment, the diplomat Boza held the post as director for Western Europe at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations. [Text] [FL041225 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 83]

MONTANE OROPESA RECEIVES MAYOR--Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the party Politburo, has received in Havana architect Eduardo Orrego Villacorta, Mayor of Lima, capital of Peru, who was accompanied by (Jorge Velazoo), Peruvian charge d'affaires in Cuba. During their conversation, they addressed topics of mutual interest stressing the common bonds uniting the two peoples and their wishes to strengthen friendship and relations between Lima and Havana. [Text] [FL050205 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Apr 83]

HUMBERTO PEREZ ADDRESSES MEETING--The 24th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission for Socialist Countries' Cooperation in the Sphere of Computer Technology began yesterday at our capital's palace of conventions. Humberto Perez, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the central planning board, recalled that this is the second time the conference is held in Cuba. He added that the first meeting took place in 1975 and, since then, our country has experienced great advances in that sector, thanks to the valuable cooperation of socialist countries, especially of the Soviet Union. [Text] [FL061267 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/652

BRIEFS

COCONUT TAX—Roseau, Sun. (AP)—With Dominica's coconut industry back in shape, the Government has announced that taxes on coconut products for export would be boosted beginning on Tuesday. A Government statement said the tax on bulk shipments would be increased to (US) \$40 (TT \$96) a ton or an increase of (US) \$10 (TT \$24) over the previous rate. Following Hurricane David in 1979, the Government decided to lower coconut taxes in order to help restart the industry. The Hurricane heavily damaged the trees. However, after careful consideration, Government has decided to raise coconut taxes since production of coconuts is now on the increase and farmers are receiving a better price for their products, the statement said. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Feb 83 p 15]

CSO: 3298/479

GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CAUSES CONCERN

Quito VISTAZO in Spanish 4 Feb 83 pp 28-29

[Article by Blasco Penaherrera: "The Catastrophe of Unemployment"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] As a tragic sequel to the "dramatic measures" which put an end to the grotesque farce of indebtedness and waste, the rate of unemployment has begun to climb rapidly. This was inevitable. With the effective investment capacity of the public sector reduced to less than 15 percent, imports stopped, the manufacturing industry paralyzed and agriculture and livestock wiped out, the least that could happen is that the percentage of unemployed or underemployed would increase explosively. Since this increase has occurred because of a truly anguishing prior situation (an /effective/ unemployment rate of more than 40 percent of the labor force), the "explosion" can quickly acquire the magnitude of a catastrophe.

What to Do?

It is imperative to go beyond "diagnosis" and propose solutions. They must be valid, not so much in their theoretical wrappings or their agreement with the established system but in feasibility of their effects. Nevertheless, since /"man is as much a friend to good theories as an enemy to good practices"/-- according to the wise saying of Manuel Genaro Rentero--this type of proposal runs the risk of not being heeded or understood. What is more serious is that the opposite happens with vaporous but seductive proposals. For this curious reason, it is probable that the "brilliant idea" that has occurred to someone of offering "special stimuli" to the enterprises installed on the basis of broader use of manpower than machinery will prosper. As if installing this type of industry was like "blowing glass bottles." As if, after the famous "blind" reduction of the benefits of the industrial development legislation, there were still anyone capable of believing the "offers of encouragement" of the Ecuadoran state that would induce them to throw away the facilities and low cost of automated production in exchange for the tremendous risks of the massive use of manpower within a legal framework of such myopic conception and such unscrupulous administration. Not only is this probable but the latest annual period of forced stability will be renewed--"to fight unemployment--and even expanded. It even reaches the aberrant aspiration of eliminating every possibility of dismissal by the employer. With all this, as with almost everything that has

been done in labor legislation until now, the only thing that will be achieved is to protect--precariously, of course--the situation of /those currently employed with very high incomes/. That is the same as saying: the very few who enjoy the famous "acquired rights" under the protection of the famous collective contracts of the public institutions and enterprises. The others--those with real minimum wages who can hardly subsist--and the worse "others"--the unemployed and underemployed--will see, in these and similar, equally intimidating measures for the employer which logically restrict any possibility of expansion of the employment capacity, their own options more limited than ever and their hard fate as truly poor without "acquired rights" sealed forever.

Innovate

What to do then? There is only one answer: /innovate/, break the rigidity of labor legislation focused unilaterally on defense and benefit of certain employees to create institutions that, without harming them in any way, open possibilities of survival--because we are in that situation and it is that extreme--for the hundreds of thousands of young, middle-aged and old people who expand the legions of the idle each day. In this line of thought, I know that several months ago a draft decree was presented to the ministry of the branch (without receiving any response). It has been called "shared work." With provisions regulating the duration of the workday and the form of pay, it would permit hiring "substitute workers" to work on Saturdays and Sundays or the days when the "staff workers" have obligatory rest for indispensable jobs in the majority of enterprises like maintenance. The "substitute workers" would receive the corresponding portion of all social benefits but, logically, could not come under the collective contracts nor demand normal indemnity for untimely dismissal. What practical effect would be achieved with this innovation? Nothing less than appreciably alleviating the situation of at least 100,000 unemployed or underemployed people (one-third of the labor force with stable occupation in the private sector) and giving an important impetus to the manufacturing sector now on the verge of collapse. Along with this innovation, there could also be plans to install a parallel system of /pay per hour of work/ as exists in the majority of the countries of the world for employees who work part-time, recognizing all social benefits and preventing the possibility of harmfully disguising their situation in enterprises. In this way, several thousand people, especially young students, could find work in offices, clinics, warehouses, restaurants, etc., instead of being idle without any hope other than of the "escape" of drugs, carousing and crime.

Objections

Naturally, when stipulating these or similar innovations in legal texts, there must be extreme care to keep unscrupulous employers--who are always around--from trying to replace their permanent workers with occasional or part-time workers or pay the latter less than legitimately corresponds to them. The keen imagination of the exploiters of others' work can invent all these abuses and many others. These can and should be avoided with clear, precise provisions which can be easily applied. However, even when this is achieved, the discussion of these bills and their eventual approval will inevitably arouse adverse reaction from all parties interested in "worsening class conflicts"

or benefitting unduly in conflicts with their own "class." There will be certain "unionists" and labor leaders who will bellow and cry, calling them "anti-worker" or "against the intangible rights of the working class." There will also be "analysts" and political "leaders" (?) who will call them "rightist" or "reactionary." Fortunately, the judgment of the immense majority of the citizens has matured much more than that of these alleged mentors. The people will know how to establish the clear difference between the famous "acquired rights" of the /presently employed/ workers which are hurt in some way and the urgent need to /mitigate/ a situation of growing anguish in /half the population able to work/. That difference also separates the real labor leaders from the users of conflicts or the truly advanced politicians from the demagogues putting on a good front.

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CSO: 3348/270

CENTRAL BANK MEASURES REGARDING PRIVATE DEBT CRITICIZED

Quito VISTAZO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 6

[Text] "Sucretization," as the conversion to sucres of the entire foreign debt of the private sector by the Central Bank has been picturesquely called, is unquestionably the current topic in the country. It is known that the private sector owes more than \$1.6 billion to its foreign creditors; most of this was sold on the free market at about 30 sucres to the dollar. However, that debt now has to be paid with dollars costing more than 70 sucres with no certainty about the future rate of exchange. It is obvious that the private sector is not in the position to absorb the exchange loss that this difference implies. Therefore, it is imperative to seek a solution to this problem to prevent the bankruptcy of an important number of private enterprises and, in that way, avoid aggravating the recession and unemployment in the country.

The important part of any solution to this problem is that the private sector must be given all facilities to pay its entire debt. Under no concept can it be suggested that the government assume that debt totally or partially. However, there is no question that it falls to the government to find the appropriate solution to prevent the economic and social sequels of paralysis of an important segment of the private sector because the government is mainly responsible for the rise of the dollar on the free market due to its poor economic administration. Also it was government policy that led the enterprises to become indebted in dollars that had to be sold on the free market. According to sources before this issue went to press, the solution apparently would have to be refinancing by the Central Bank of the entire private foreign debt in sucres so that the debt would be "sucretized."

Private enterprise would not owe any more dollars but would owe the equivalent sucres to the Central Bank at a conversion rate to be determined. In this way, the private sector would know exactly how much its foreign debt was in sucres which would permit it to concretely plan payment. It is hoped that the Monetary Board which has postponed this and other necessary economic decisions in its usual Tuesdays of terror or suspense will quickly dictate the regulations needed to correct this problem.

7717

CSO: 3348/270

CENTRAL BANK FACES GROWING DEMAND FOR REIMBURSEMENTS

Quito VISTAZO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] For the first time in its history, the Central Bank has accumulated a significant amount of reimbursements for which it apparently has no ability to pay. According to certain calculations, there are between \$300 million and \$400 million in requests for reimbursements presented to the Central Bank and pending payment, in some cases for more than 3 months. Although the Central Bank refuses to give a satisfactory explanation--there has even been talk of a shortage of forms--the basic reason for the delay must lie in the practically nonexistent monetary reserves of the country. As of the end of February of this year, the Central Bank had not supplied the figures for the monetary reserve beyond December 1982 in a desire for unjustified secrecy. At the end of last year, the liquid monetary reserve was less than \$10 million. Given the oil situation and the cutoff of credit to Ecuador, it is possible that this has gone down even lower. If the existing reimbursements are an immediate obligation of the Central Bank, the monetary reserve must be negative now even considering the monetary gold and other reserve assets of the country. The problem of the monetary reserve is due to several factors including the devaluations in 1982 that did not solve the problem of the foreign sector of our economy, increased imports (that now cannot be paid for) and raised the rate of exchange of the free market, aggravating overbilling for imports. Apart from the shortage of imports and the loss of prestige for the country and its enterprises abroad implied by late payments for imports, there is a very high financial cost for the delay which the country will have to assume as a result of this anomalous situation. Although it has still not been determined if the private sector or the Central Bank must assume that cost, it is the country which will have to send more resources abroad. Unfortunately, the damage, the result of economic improvisation and ignorance, is already done. It is necessary now to wait for corrective measures to be dictated so that a situation like this does not happen again. The presence of the Monetary Fund could be exploited, according to the minister of finances.

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CSO: 3348/270

PROPOSED LAW TO CONTROL PUBLIC EXPENDITURES CRITICIZED

Quito VISTAZO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 8

[Text] A few weeks ago, we commented on the outcome of the so-called "Law to Control Public Expenditures" which had been approved by the plenary session of the congressional committees. We hoped that the obligatory revision of that law--not only because of its confused legal content but because of the stand taken by CONASEP [Federation of Public Servants]--would not violate the spirit of the law: /the need to reduce excessive public expenditures/ [in boldface]. Unfortunately, the force of the opponents has been able to do more than the force of reason. Our "legislators" along with the manager of the Central Bank and the minister of finance have now conceived a bill with the pompous title: "Law of Economic Regulation and Control of Public Expenditures." However, it has nothing to do with that title.

Instead of reducing public expenditures, this bill increases them by generalizing a certain type of subsidy to all public servants. This means generalizing or raising the large wages that the original bill tried to limit. The new law also provides for more bureaucracy by creating a new undersecretariat in the Ministry of Finance, the undersecretariat of credit. The government prepared to fill this position before this law was even approved. The control that was going to be imposed on the public sector has practically evaporated since there is one thing for the ministries and another for autonomous entities like the Central Bank. Everything will be at the discretion of the top authorities. This same provision applies to the budgets of the autonomous entities which will not be approved by congress but by their own authorities. The bill in question is a real legal potpourri covering such diverse subjects as: the General Bank Law, the Monetary System Law, the International Exchange Law, the Companies Law, the Penal Code, the Organic Law of Financial Administration and Control and the Social Security Law. Actually, it is a "Super Law" that no one wants to sponsor apparently. In our opinion, the bill, as conceived, should be shelved because it is a legal absurdity that does not merit discussion.

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CSO: 3348/270

BRIEFS

CHANGES IN LIBERAL, PCD PARTIES--There were two important events for political parties these past 2 weeks. First, Dr Blasco Penaherrera Padilla was nominated by acclamation as supreme leader of the Liberal Party. That nomination demonstrated the solidness in the ranks of this old political party. A man who has known how to maintain tenacious and serious opposition to the regime throughout these years of democracy, Blasco Penaherrera confirmed the decision of his party to continue in that line. During these years, the government failures have amply verified the validity of the criticisms made by him and his party. The new leader of liberalism also stated that his party will seek a coalition for 1984, not because the party cannot win the elections alone but because the problems of Ecuador are so complex that a very broad human team is needed to govern. While the liberals demonstrated their unity, the PCD [expansion unknown] had a crisis that, if left unresolved, can seriously hurt the scaffolding of the party and leave Dr Aquiles Rigail, presidential aspirant, in a difficult situation. Rigail presented his irrevocable resignation due to disagreements with the leaders, important members of that party like Dr Enrique Gallegos Arends who criticized the way Rigail leads the party. One faction did not accept Rigail's resignation but the dissident still wants to nominate Pena Bayona as a director. However, as our issue went to press, the differences and decisions on who leads the party had not been resolved. [Text] [Quito VISTAZO in Spanish 4 Feb 83 p 10] 7717

CS0: 3348/270

REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION SAID TO BE HARMFUL TO REFORM

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 6

/Editorial by Alfredo Parada/

/Text/ The idea of holding a referendum on the political constitution, which will be issued in the future by the present constituent assembly, has unexpectedly sprung up in political circles. According to the experts, a referendum is a semi-direct democratic procedure in which the citizens participate in the work of the peoples' representatives, in this case the deputies.

Once and for all, I feel it imperative to say that I see no need for the general public to express in a referendum its approval or disapproval of the text of the political statute now being drafted by the constituent assembly.

It is neither necessary nor desirable for all the voters to decide by vote whether or not they agree with the constitution which is to be promulgated. This is so because the elections held on 28 March 1982 made very clear how the Republic wished to be governed. For the elected deputies are the representatives of the popular will, although isolated voices are of the opposite opinion. These are the voices of an insignificant number who, without advancing reasons other than their own private interests, deny the intrinsic validity of that electoral contest.

Maurice Duverger* says that in France the referendum is criticized as traditionally having become a plebiscite; that is, a means of offering support or a vote of confidence for one man.

That expert adds that in Switzerland, where the referendum is used a great deal in three cantons, it tends to maintain the status quo. This has always been the case. Plebiscites, he explained, always tend to reject proposed reforms: their results are invariably conservative.

* Maurice Duverger, "Political Institutions and Constitutional Law"; published by Editorial Ariel, Barcelona; fifth edition.

Here, the referendum could become an instrument for maintaining the old ways of life. The 1982 elections showed that those ways had to be improved on. Obviously, all the political parties--some more, others less--included in their campaign platforms the reforms advocated by the 15 October 1979 Armed Forces Proclamation.

There is a danger, also, that the referendum might contribute to keeping in power persons who otherwise would not so continue; that is, it would obstruct the full implementation of the military proclamation. The referendum would allow the continuation of control over certain deputy seats and other positions of advantage to interests opposed to that of the majority.

9204

CS0: 3248/590

PANAMA REPORTED TO BE RESTRICTING IMPORTS

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 2

/Text/ We have been informed that in spite of the bilateral agreements, based on the Free Trade and Preferential Exchange Treaty between the Governments of Panama and El Salvador, which were revised during the Ninth Meeting of the Permanent Mixed Commission held on 19 and 20 January 1983, exports to Panama of several Salvadoran export products which receive Free Trade treatment, are at a standstill.

It is said that this is what has happened in the case of pencils manufactured in El Salvador which are covered by the treaty and have been barred from importation by Panama. They were manufactured to meet the demands of the 1983 school year.

Under the preferential treatment agreement El Salvador consumes rum, sardines, cosmetics and other products produced in Panama while a number of Salvadoran products such as pencils, brooms, brushes of all kinds, industrial gloves, coffee extracts, common and refined salts, which under the bilateral agreement should be given the same treatment, are barred from entering Panama.

This represents a series of blows to El Salvador's already serious situation since exports bring foreign exchange into our country but if we cannot export and on the other hand continue to import Panamanian products paid for with foreign exchange, our balance of payments with Panama will be seriously affected.

Besides, the Salvadoran enterprises affected by this arbitrary measure might be forced to cut production which could make the existing unemployment problem in the country even worse.

Because of the seriousness of the problem just explained, the affected sectors have appealed to the official bodies requesting the normalization of trade and the compliance with the Free Trade Treaty between the two countries.

9204

CSO: 3248/590

RICE INDUSTRY FACING CRISIS; YIELDS SHORT OF TARGET

Harvest Shortfall

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] THE yield from the first rice crop this year will fall short of the original target despite extra work put in by farmers, the Guyana Rice Board, and some sister corporations.

The sole detractor in this, a really great production effort, is the weather. A prolonged dry spell severely inhibited the farmers' efforts to plant on well and extensively prepared land.

The GRB had targeted 121 200 acres for ploughing, but instead the farmers prepared 125 302 acres, surpassing their target by over 4 000 acres.

In this herculean operation an estimated 2 294 tractors were used, and planting should have coincided with the December rains and should have lasted into mid-January.

Once such a planting schedule was kept, the crop should be ready for reaping in April before the May-June rains, which would soften dams and make the passage of draglines hazardous.

Only 79 593 acres were sown, however.

But, little rain came in December. The farmers

were however, still hopeful that with some extra work they could complete sowing by early January. The situation kept on changing for the worse, and from the first week in January, the GRB started taking emergency measures. After checks of affected areas by Vice-President responsible for Agriculture, Cde. Hamilton Green and GRB General Manager, Cde. Leon Dundas, all irrigators belonging to the Board were thrown into relief effort at quite a cost to the Board.

At Dawa on the Essequibo Coast, the Board was supplying fuel to pumps, an average of 600 gallons per day.

A comparison of the targeted and actual figures with the amount charted will show that despite the adverse conditions the Essequibo Coast and West Demerara areas performed excellently, but the worst hit was Wakenaam.

As a result, the ambitious projection of 90 535 metric tonnes to be harvested for the first crop was reduced to 86 000 metric tonnes.

Sister corporations helping the GRB were the Guyana Sugar Corporation and the Guyana Mining Enterprise, Guymine providing four heavy duty pumps and Guysuco three irrigators.

Cde. Leon Dundas was loud in his praise of the farmers' work and thankful to the corporations which gave assistance. He urged that these rice producers use all prepared but unplanted land in the second crop which is expected to yield 100 366 metric tonnes from 140, 200 acres.

He assured that the first crop shortfall will not affect the local and Caribbean markets as there is a large carry over stock from 1982.

Weather Problems

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 6 Mar 83 p 24

[Text] GUYANA'S rice industry is facing a serious crisis as a result of unfavourable weather conditions which affected the last three crops between 1982 and early 1983.

The past three wet seasons and three dry seasons were out of phase with agriculture and there is a prediction of a severe drought. Already, this has been the worst drought since 1965 and the sixth most severe during the past 102 years.

Looking at the first rice crop in 1982, we find that this crop was governed by the year's first wet season from December 1981 to

February 1982, and by the first dry season, from February to April, 1982.

Sub-standard rainfall resulted in only about 50 per cent of the 127,000 acres of rice being ploughed. Then, the first dry season received above average rainfall, seriously hindering rice and sugar harvesting.

Statistics showed that during the second crop in 1982 the second wet season began nearly two and a half months prematurely. This made

field conditions so impassable that land preparation was minimised.

This was followed by the second dry season which also came prematurely — nearly five weeks ahead of schedule. Consequently, rice fields planted in May-June experienced severe water deficits before full plant growth was reached.

In addition because of excessive conditions during the second dry season no relief was

provided to the extreme soil moisture deficit.

The present rice crop has already been damaged beyond hope. Rain for this crop, instead of beginning in November, was one month late and scanty.

During January this year the rainfall was about 75 per cent below average. For all practical purposes, the last wet season only lasted three weeks and produced only 40 per cent of the average wet season rainfall.

According to predictions, unless there is unseasonal rainfall over the next few months, a severe drought will occur.

JAGAN SUMS UP PPP OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT'S 1983 BUDGET

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Cheddi Jagan]

[Text] 'HISTORY seems to be repeating itself. This time it's not Guyana, but neighbouring Suriname.

In the early 1960s, under the slogan, "no more Cubas in the Western Hemisphere". Anglo-American imperialism and its local collaborators moved to "expose, oppose and depose" the PPP government.

The press and radio were used to incite the people. Big business locked their doors, and paid their workers to go out into the streets on a rampage. The TUC charged that free trade unionism would disappear. And the lumpen elements were given free liquor and told to burn, loot and kill.

All these elements came together under "The Defenders of Freedom" in an anti-Communist crusade against the PPP.

In revolutionary-democratic Suriname was established the "Suriname Association for Democracy". It charged that Commander Desi Bouterse was setting up police-state rule, and taking Suriname into alliance with Cuba, Grenada and the Soviet Union. It called for elections, assuring a "state of law". Even strikes were called for elections.

ELECTIONS

We have to look at the call for elections very carefully. It

sounds democratic as it is one of the means under bourgeois democracy of bringing about a people's government. But not every call for elections is a progressive one.

Take Guyana. The PNC at the Constitutional Conference in London in 1960 had agreed that whichever party won the 1961 elections would take the country into independence. During the election campaign, L. F. S. Burnham said that if the PPP won the election, he would be going with the PPP to London to demand independence. A minority faction in the PNC disagreed with Burnham's categorical position, claiming that he was "selling out the Africans".

The PPP won the elections. What happened? The PNC, joined by the UF, the TUC, the Catholic Church, the Defenders of Freedom, the Chamber of Commerce, the press and radio, like a bunch of jackals, started a rampage on a new slogan: "elections before independence; elections under proportional representation".

The TUC and the Civil Service went on strike. The Chamber of Commerce and the CIA threw in the money to finance the publicity campaign, the strike, the lock-out and the strife. CIA agents were working inside the TUC. Through it.

CIA money was channelled for the 80-day strike in 1963.

Dictatorship

What is the end result of the elections of 1964 (one year before they were constitutionally due in 1965) and 18 years of PNC in government? Bankruptcy, starvation, corruption, discrimination, crime, rigged elections; bureaucratic-administrative and police-military methods of rule, what the parliamentary Sub-Committee for Canada's Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean called "an administrative dictatorship." Even those in the UF (now superseded by the Liberator Party and the VLD) who called for the elections and helped to install the PNC in power are now biting their nails and wringing their hands!

What about Suriname? What existed there before the military coup in 1980 somewhat paralleled what pertains under the PNC — rule by and for the petty bourgeois and bourgeois class; corruption; discrimination; suppression and oppression of the working people.

Worse than Guyana: the main political parties were all led by reactionary petty-bourgeois politicians, and organised racially. They controlled not only the parliament, but also the mass media. They kept the working masses in political ignorance and stupified by bourgeois (capitalist) ideology.

Liberation

It is important to remember that what took place in Suriname was not just a "palace coup"; that is, a military shake-up by the top military. It was a seizure of power by the lower ranks of the army.

We must appreciate what this means. Take our own GDF. The

PNC makes sure that the boys at the top are well paid and well heeled. What about those at the bottom, in the ranks? We know that they come from the working class. Many could not find work, so they went in the army. But they face the same

problems as the civilian workers. As the TUC put it: in February 1981, a worker's take home pay after tax was \$250, but his expenses were \$654 per month; living standards deteriorated by 25 per cent in the January 1981-June 1982 period; the minimum daily wage should be \$29.70 instead of the \$12.71 paid now.

In Guyana, the people are suffering. And the democratic and progressive forces are not only strong politically but also have organisational roots in the working class, peasantry and other social strata. In such a situation, a call for an election is progressive and is justified; the people can win out in such an election, once it is not rigged and the nation and the masses will benefit.

Solidarity

Unfortunately, in Suriname, the progressive forces are organisationally small and divided; largely due to ideological confusion.

The masses are still influenced by the old reactionary parties and bourgeois ideas. In such a situation the call for election is reactionary. We must not forget that this call for elections also comes from the CIA and the imperialists.

In this context, it is important to recall that the USA held its first election about 12 years after its revolution in 1876. And when we are talking about elections and democracy, we must remember these persons — Mohamed Mossadegh of Iran, Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala, Salvador Allende of Chile, Michael Manley of Jamaica —

who won elections, but became victims of the CIA and its local collaborators.

The Suriname revolution needs active, militant solidarity. Suriname must not become another Guyana!

BURNHAM ADDRESSES NONALIGNED SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Courtney Gibson]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham yesterday thanked the Non-Aligned Movement for "the principled position" it has taken on the Guyana-Venezuela territorial issue.

Addressing the plenary session of the Summit conference of the Movement Wednesday night, he reiterated that "Guyana has no other desire than that of friendly relations with Venezuela."

He noted that the Movement has spoken out on the matter of the Venezuelan claim to more than two-thirds of Guyanese territory and that in the final communiques of three recent important meetings of the Movement, its members had called for a just and peaceful settlement of the controversy, in accordance with principles which are dear to the people of Guyana —

principles such as the non-use or threat of use of force.

"I wish to express my personal appreciation, and gratitude, Madame Chairman, for the principled position taken by this Movement on this matter which is of such crucial importance to my country and which has significant regional and hemispheric implications."

He added, "Let me avail myself of this opportunity to say to this Movement that Guyana has no other desire than that of friendly relations with Venezuela. But those relations must be on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect."

"I reiterate here today what I said to President Luis Herrera Campins in Caracas on April 3, 1981 despite all that has happened. Guyana remains ready and willing to have bilateral discussions with Venezuela on the improvement of our relations."

In his presentation, the Guyanese leader also addressed the question of

the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean and asked for full respect for Belize's territorial integrity.

He said the region's problems were being complicated by border disputes and territorial claims.

Guatemala's claim to all of Belize and Venezuela's claim to over two-thirds of Guyana, if they are not resolved in accordance with the time-honoured principles of the Movement — and international law — "can threaten the peace of our region and lead to breaches of it as in the past."

"The Movement must continue to give unequivocal support to the territorial integrity of Belize," he stressed.

"The transition from a world based on hegemony and dominance to one based on a more democratic and ordered system of relations among states, has reached sharp expression in the region."

"In addition, the states of the area have found that the old structures — international and national — do not conduce to the full realisation of independence and the

promotion of rapid economic development and, in many cases, the people's aspirations for economic freedom are frustrated by rigid and obsolete socio-economic structures."

The President said that this was to be seen particularly in El Salvador, and that Guyana believes that the people of that country must be allowed to determine their own path of development free from outside interference.

"By the same token, the Movement must continue to support the need for the termination of the blockade against Cuba and the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination must be upheld."

"Indeed, we must support all the people of Central America and the Caribbean including Nicaragua and Grenada, in their struggle to consolidate their independence." President Burnham told the plenary of the Summit in his speech for which he was warmly congratulated by conference chairman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the head of several delegations.

(GNA)

CSO: 3298/462

CORRUPTION AS NATIONAL SOCIAL, POLITICAL PRACTICE EXAMINED

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 83 pp 6, 11

[Article by Ken Danns]

[Excerpts]

...MORAL outrage is a generalised reaction of law-abiding citizens to the very mention of the word "Corruption". As Siffen puts it: "Corruption is a lurid word, emotive and primitive." It is my purpose to deal with this very phenomenon particularly as it affects the Guyanese society and in a manner that is at once dispassionate and practical...

My focus here is on an explication of the phenomenon of corruption and on its function and causes. The problem of administrative or bureaucratic corruption in Guyana will be addressed. The involvement of the Guyanese public at large will be a consideration.

Corruption is the misuse and abuse of the power or authority of an office for personal gain or profit. To engage in corruption one must be in a position of authority, that is, be the incumbent of an established power post. As the common demoninator of corruption, power is bartered for money or other material and social benefits; or such coin and kind can be traded for power or the restraint of its use. Corruption is both intentional and unlawful.

Misuse of Power for Personal Gain

That There exists widespread corruption among public officials in Guyana is a fact publicly declared by none other than the President and members of his inner circle of advisors. From time to time the President would make public announcements to the effect that "toes will be mashed" in a clean-up campaign against corruption in state bureaucracies.

Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid as reported in the 'Chronicle' (May 10, 1979) "renewed the call for supervisors and management workers to refrain from dishonest and malicious acts which endangered the welfare of the broad mass of the Guyanese population. He said some workers as soon as they

were placed in responsible positions and were enjoying a certain quality of living standards, pounced upon every opportunity to defraud and conduct corrupt practices to further enrich themselves."

In very graphic language Dr Reid who was addressing graduates of the Cuffy Ideological Institute asserted that the perpetrators of such acts are like "labaria snakes" which attack when the opponent is near. Dr Reid added that the same attitude was evident in "workers who were near the Party and Government machinery who hit with ferocious and deadly blows at the nation's coffers".

Here the Prime Minister was painting a picture of widespread, and rampant administrative or bureaucratic corruption. Administrative corruption with which I am concerned is to be

distinguished from political corruption which will not be the focus of this article.

As a consequence of public recognition of administrative

corruption and public denouncement by leading political figures charges were brought against corporation officials and managers, senior public servants, army and police officers and junior public servants. In some instances managers and senior public officials were dismissed and without protest. The courts were instructed to be severe on public officials found guilty of venal practices. The blatant nature of administrative corruption was reaching epidemic proportions to the extent of doing harm to the functioning of government.

There are several factors which can explain the causes of corruption in a country like Guyana. In the first place, a prominent feature of societies emerging from a traditional and colonial past is the marked distrust of bureaucratic systems of administration. People seemingly resent and avoid as far as is possible these impersonal structures of authority and seek to make them responsive to their needs in a very personalised fashion.

Paul Keens Douglas the Trinidadian satirist and sociologist in a lecture at the University of Guyana some time ago coined the concept "One-to-One" to describe the personalised nature of social relations in Guyana and Caribbean society.

People would rather deal with each other on a one-to-one basis. Rather than relate to an individual as an official there is a preference to

relate to him or her as a person whom they know or would try to get to know and strike up a personal acquaintance. Paul Keens Douglas saw this as a feature of the friendliness and openness of the peoples in these small-scale Caribbean societies.

Though functional in terms of humanising interactions between people these one-to-one relations and orientations also form the psychological and social under-pinning for corrupt behaviour in the Guyanese society.

It is a fact of life in Guyana that both politicians and public servants alike are bombarded with demands for jobs and other favours from friends, family, casual acquaintances, neighbours and supporters alike and most of them give such "assistance" whenever or however they can. To give such assistance a public official is invariably constrained to misuse or abuse the authority of his or her office, that is, become corrupt.

The one-to-one principle as a social inducement to corruption can be further illustrated in the very intimate Guyanese concept of "lines". To have what the Guyanese public call "lines" is to utilise other than official or publicly approved channels to attain desired ends. Most Guyanese try to use "lines" when they have to get anything official done.

People use lines to get a job, promotion, obtain a transfer or scarce commodities, avoid the payment of taxes or fines and to obtain contracts. The use of "lines" invariably requires the corrupting of public bureaucratic offices and officials.

There is then within the Guyanese society normative expectations and pressures to induce corruption among public officials. Though this may come as a surprise, the Guyanese public though overtly opposed to corruption among public officials by their custom and conduct in fact support and in some instances even insist on corrupt practices.

OPPOSITION PPP SUPPORTS SEVERAL GOV'T BILLS IN PARLIAMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] Vice-President Hamilton Green warned Thursday that if the Predial Larceny (Enhancement of Punishment) Bill 1983 did not show a change in prevalence of theft of agricultural produce in six months' time, Government would have to propose draconian if not drastic measures to stamp out the crime.

He assured Minority Members Ram Karran and Reepu Daman Persaud that (Police) Divisional Commanders have been sensitised to the need to reduce incidents of predial larceny and said in addition there would be surveillance in the Regions.

Cde Green said he looked forward to the full co-operation of the Opposition in the matter.

The two PPP spokesmen, who supported the measure, led their colleagues in voting with the Government to pass the Bill unanimously.

The Predial Larceny Bill was one of seven Bills on which the Minority voted with the Government in an unusual show of unanimity in Parliament when the House considered measures to assist the agriculture thrust, stamp out blackmarketing and give effect to other steps being taken to help the economy.

Cde Reepu called for cohesion among the

agencies that would have to support the legislation as too many people have been reaping what they did not sow throughout the country.

Cde Ram Karran blamed unemployment and retrenchment for the prevalence of predial larceny and said he hoped the law would apply to policemen who were allegedly co-operating with the thieves.

When Trade and Consumer Protection Minister Frank Hope was piloting

the Trade (Amendment) Bill 1983 through the House to increase penalties for blackmarketing, Cde Narbada Persaud blamed the nefarious practice on the Government's political policies and the supply and demand situation.

He assured that the PPP had no quarrel with the Government for seeking to stamp out the practice, but he felt the import restriction and banning were responsible for the practice.

Cde Reepu spoke of the disparity in penalties and urged magistrates to ensure that justice appears to have been done by exercising their discretion "fairly and impartially."

Minister Hope observed that blackmarketing applied to the selling of controlled items which are in short supply.

Cde Hope stressed that once blackmarketing existed, it was virtually impossible to maintain an equitable system of distribution.

Vice-President Desmond Hoyte accepted a suggestion from Cde Reepu and moved an amendment to the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill which preserved the right of the National Assembly to direct audits by the Auditor-General.

The Bill had removed the necessity for a resolution from the Assembly and vested the Minister with power to extend the range of public entities whose books could be audited by the Auditor-General.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill 1983 was also passed to give the Auditor-General powers to audit the books of companies in which Government had controlling interest.

The National Assembly also passed without debate the Guyana Export

Promotion Council Bill 1983 providing for the setting up of the Council, which Vice-President Hoyte, said, is expected to give a fillip to export trade and stimulate foreign earnings.

The 1983 Budget was taken through its final stage yesterday when the Appropriation Bill 1983, providing for the expenditure outlined in the Budget, was also passed without debate.

PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING DOWN \$533 MILLION IN '83 BUDGET

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] **THE** Guyana Government has reduced its total public sector expenditure from a budgeted \$1676 million in 1982 to \$1143 million this year.

This is seen as a conscious effort to minimise administrative and other expenses in the fiscal year 1983. This is a response to the eternal problem of financing government programmes.

Although there are several sources, internally and externally, from which revenue can be derived, quite often the money obtained is not sufficient to meet current and capital expenses.

Within the public service itself (excluding the corporations), revenue can be obtained from rents, royalties, fees, and fines to name a few sources. Sadly, these sources do not provide much money.

In fact only \$15 million of the total financial requirements are expected from the payment of rents, royalties, fees and fines.

External sources of finance include grants and loans from friendly governments and institutions. Some of these institutions are the United Nations Development Fund, Food

and Agricultural Organisation, European Economic Community, Canadian International Development Agency, United States Agency for International Development, Caribbean Development Bank, World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In addition government has benefited from indirect loans in the

form of lines of credits from countries like Brazil and the German Democratic Republic.

The public service which makes up the greatest portion of the government's administrative machinery, is a consumer of income rather than a producer, using up the greatest portion of \$700 million of central government expenditure.

This appears to be an untenable situation when it is noted that in 1983, current revenue from the central government accounts for only \$365 million.

Of this revenue, \$209.7 million is expected to come from income tax, \$14.1 million from property tax, \$207.1 million from taxes on production and consumption activities and

\$62.7 million from taxes on international trade transactions (import and excise duties and travel voucher tax).

In addition \$65 million in revenue is expected from the corporations in the form of taxes, dividends and external borrowings, along with \$60 million in banking system borrowing.

However, this revenue is nullified by the fact that in 1983 the corporations are expected to incur an overall deficit of \$100 million down \$51 million from last year's budgeted deficit.

All this adds up to the fact that the government will again in 1983 have to resort to external sources to meet its budgetary deficit which is expected to exceed \$400 million.

Budget planners emphasised the need for ministries, corporations and regions to be more self-financing this year.

These agencies and organisations were also told to explore methods to ensure greater cost efficiency. It was explained that it is uneconomical to employ foreign consultants when local ones can do the job.

This year the country's economic survival will largely depend on the ability of agencies and organisations to keep costs down to the barest minimum. (GNA)

CS0: 3298/462

BRIEFS

BURNHAM ON CBI--New Delhi--Mr. President what is your opinion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative launched by President Reagan?" asked a journalist covering the Non-Aligned Summit here. 'Interesting' came the very terse response from President Burnham--a response which caused the gathering of journalists at a press conference hosted by the President to erupt in laughter. 'Will you elaborate, please?' the journalist continued, Burnham obliged: "I don't think it means much when one looks at the sums involved and the fact that the lion's share of those funds are to go to El Salvador for military purposes. It seems to me to be quite unrealistic. "Guyana itself will not benefit but if there are any countries in the Caribbean that will benefit by all means let them benefit." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Mar 83 p 8]

RELATIONS WITH INDIA--New Delhi--The Guyana-India Joint Commission is scheduled to meet within another month or two either here or in Georgetown President Forbes Burnham told a press conference here yesterday. Responding to questions from journalists, he said relations--at both the political and economic levels--were 'very good' between the two Non-Aligned states. He said there was a great deal of trade between the two countries with Guyana purchasing industrial goods from India.--(GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Mar 83 p 8]

DEVELOPMENT DIGEST--In support of the nation's Development Programme, and the emphasis on the Agricultural Thrust and our self-reliance objectives, Guyana National Newspapers, Guyana National Newspapers, Ltd., will be introducing a special supplement in the form of a Development Digest. It is hoped initially, to produce this supplement fortnightly within the pages of the "SUNDAY CHRONICLE" beginning next Sunday, March 7. This institution hopes that the Digest will help to educate, inform, motivate, stimulate and introduce generally to the development of the nation. It is hoped that the Digest will especially help to promote the national programme of Self-Reliance, co-operativism, increased production and productivity, eating what we produce and unity of purpose. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 83 p 1]

TRAWLER PURCHASE--The Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB) will assist Guyana to acquire 20 new trawlers to boost the country's shrimping and fishing industry, according to the national fisheries department. Acquisition of the additional trawlers forms part of a government programme for this year to

increase by 33 per cent, the size of the industrial fishing and shrimping fleet including the conversion of ten old shrimping trawlers into fishing vessels, a fisheries department report said. In addition each shrimping trawler operating in Guayana will continue to turn in two tonnes of fish after each shrimping trip. At present, there are 123 trawlers operating here, of which 93 are foreign-owned. Twenty five operate under a fuel facility arrangement with National Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago, and there are 1,110 boats involved in artisanal fishing. The government has also embarked upon a number of additional projects with the help of international organisations to improve the viability of the local industry. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Mar 83 p 4]

AUDITOR-GENERAL IMPROVEMENT--Government has taken steps to strengthen and professionalise the staff of the Auditor-General's Department in keeping with its wider responsibility. Vice-President Desmond Hoyte told the National Assembly yesterday that over the past two years 91 qualified persons had been attracted to the department because of the increase in the pay scales. He added that recommendations to fill another 62 posts are now with the Public Service Ministry. Cde Hoyte made the disclosure in reply to an observation by PPP Member Reepu Daman Persaud who said his party long ago advocated that the Auditor-General's area be extended and expected that the staffing would be improved. The Vice-President, who said it was refreshing to find a point of agreement with the PPP, had also deferred the final passage of the Audit Bill to have the amendment proposed by Cde Reepu drafted. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 83 p 1]

ARMS SHIPMENT--The shipment into the country of large quantities of arms for the Guyana Defence Force was raised during the recent Budget Debate by Opposition parliamentary spokesman on Defence, Clinton Collymore. The PPP Parliamentarian expressed concern that arms was being given priority over food at a time when the Guyanese nation is on the brink of starvation. Mr. Collymore was no doubt referring to reports that on February 12 last two ships, bearing no flags, unloaded massive guns and small arms at the Linden Alumina Plant wharf. A huge low-bed, many-wheeled vehicle from the US company, Green Construction, was used to transport the guns to some place along the Linden Highway and the Mackenzie airport, reports from the area said. The unloading was done at night by soldiers who cordoned off the Mackenzie and Wismar sides of the river. Reports stated that the arms came in a vessel named "Como VI", and were believed to have originated from Korea. However, Foreign Minister Jackson has denied that Guyana was trading rice for guns with Korea. It is understood that an order has been placed in Brazil for armoured vehicles, but final decision is being awaited before shipment to Guyana. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Feb 83 p 1]

TUC STAND--The general secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress Cde Joseph Pollydore, said yesterday that the TUC will institute stronger measures against the Lysons Group of Companies (Lysons Knitwear) from tomorrow. Cde Pollydore said that he has already passed certain instructions to the Clerical and Commercial Workers' Union General President Gordon Todd and measures are expected to start taking effect from Monday. The workers took industrial action to protest against what they called 'the failure by management to keep agreements reached between the company and the union. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/463

PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVE ON UNITY

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 7 Feb 83 p 69

[Text] In the course of a press conference recently held in Mexico City, speaking in front of Mexican and foreign journalists, Raul Daniel, the representative of the People's Liberation Movement ("Cinchoneros"), condemned the domestic "preventive war" and bellicose foreign policy of the government of his country, in alliance with the United States.

The revolutionary leader explained that Honduras is going through a grave crisis which is affecting all sectors of national life. The military-liberal government is following the strategy prepared by the United States, the international credit organizations, and the so-called "Galaxia" group, of the middle-class bourgeoisie. In dealing with popular demands arising out of this situation the government is responding by carrying out a preventive war which consists of selectively assassinating and detaining revolutionary and people's leaders and carrying out massive repression. Raul Daniel mentioned the cases involving the detention and murder of Tomas Nativi, national coordinator of the People's Revolutionary Union (URP), and Fidel Martinez, Manfredo Velazquez, and Hector Hernandez, former labor leaders from San Pedro Sula. He also mentioned the murders of Felix Martinez, Roberto Fino, Jose Rivero, Julio Andino, and, most recently, Herminio Derer, a member of the national leadership of the Communist Party of Honduras. As examples of massive repression he mentioned the attacks on the School of the People's University Front (FUP) and on the leaders of the teachers colleges which had succeeded in uniting around a common program of demands.

The "Cinchoneros" Movement agrees with the other Honduran revolutionary organizations in characterizing the foreign policy of President Roberto Suazo Cordova and of Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, minister of defense, as that of a puppet government which is manipulated by the Reagan administration. This is shown by its support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution and the Salvadoran leaders guilty of genocide against their own people, and now by the recent joint maneuvers with the United States, which are considered "a prior test for an invasion of Nicaragua." Raul Daniel placed major emphasis on the urgent need for all revolutionary and democratic organizations in his country to unite "to face up to the crisis in a compact way, to deal with the bellicose policy of the regime in power, and to ward off the expansion of war in Central America." Regarding unity, he said that talks are in progress among the seven revolutionary organizations in the country: the Communist Party of Honduras, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, the National Liberation Morazanist Front ("Cinchoneros"), the Socialist Party, the "Lorenzo Zelaya" Revolutionary People's Forces, and the Revolutionary Armed Movement.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FAVOR POLITICAL DIALOG

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 83 p 24

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The Christian Democratic Party of Honduras has been the first political institution to say "yes" to the invitation which President of the Republic Roberto Suazo Cordova put forward for the purpose of initiating a large-scale national dialog.

"Now that the government has made this call, we have no other course to take in keeping with our proper behavior than to answer 'yes, we are ready to do everything necessary for the good of this country.' Therefore, we are responding affirmatively to say that we accept the government's invitation to participate in a large-scale national dialog." This was the categorical statement of Alfredo Landaverde, president of the Christian Democratic Party's national directorate.

This political leader also said that his organization, for several years now, has been proposing a dialog as well as stressing the necessity for a significant meeting in order to establish predetermined bases for arriving at a vital agreement for the country.

"Our party could right now give the president of the republic a plan upon which the bases of a national dialog could be built and the main points of a national agreement framed," Landaverde said.

He pointed out, however, that now he must talk with the executive on this matter because, in his words, "we understand that when this type of thing occurs, at the beginning there will be bilateral meetings among all the forces concerned in order to have them all acting together afterward."

He concluded by saying that the Christian Democratic Party does not have a specific theme or anything particular in mind for the plan now "because at this moment the main thing is that there be a willingness to establish a national dialog, to sit down at the table and at that time for everyone to be careful not to put obstacles in the way to discourage the forces which have the initiative in this large-scale agreement or cause them to become pessimistic. We will have to do everything possible to see that the government does not have difficulty in carrying through with this dialog since it is for the good of our country."

9972

CSO: 3248/618

BRIEFS

BARTER AGREEMENT WITH DENMARK--Tegucigalpa--The Government of Honduras, through the Secretariat of Public Health, is exchanging coffee for medicines from the Kingdom of Denmark, using the barter system. This has been revealed by Dr Ruben Garcia Martinez, the incumbent secretary of state for public health. This exchange, the first in which Honduras has been engaged, amounts in economic terms to more than 1.6 million lempiras. This barter was made possible through the efforts of the Ministry of Economy which arranged things in such a way that producers can export the amount of their production which exceeds what they produced the previous year and, besides that, find a new market at good prices as determined by the Honduran Coffee Institute. Ruben Gardia Martinez added that, besides the advantages obtained by this new trade method, the country will not be obliged to pay out foreign exchange, which fact should improve the economic situation. The medicines which Denmark will supply will depend on requirements of the Ministry of Health, Dr Garcia Martinez concluded. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 83 p 30] 8892

ARCHBISHOP ON PROTESTANT PROSELYTIZATION--Tegucigalpa, 8 Mar (ACANEFE)--Monsignor Hector Enrique Santos, archbishop of Honduras, today complained to Pope John Paul II about "the disintegration and poor education of many Honduran families which Protestant sects are taking advantage of." At an interval during celebration of the mass at which the pope was officiating in Tegucigalpa, Monsignor Santos said that "there is a lamentable decline in our society and a religious ignorance which the Protestant sects are taking advantage of." The Honduran archbishop added, however, that "beginning with the Second Vatican Council when God blessed us by organizing the lay elements, they have become the ones which have given new vitality to the church." "We have few, very few, priests for all the flock which God has confided to us," added Monsignor Santos, "but in the lay elements we have found valuable assistance because they work closely with their pastors." [Excerpts] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Mar 83 p 2]

9972

CSO: 3248/618

SUGAR WORKERS ACCEPT 7.5 PERCENT INCREASE FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The Sugar Producers Federation (SPF) and the unions representing sugar industry workers, the BITU and NWU, agreed yesterday on wage increases of 7-1/2 per cent effective from January this year and a further 7-1/2 per cent from January next year.

The agreement is expected to cost just over \$10 million with \$4.8 million in the first year and \$5.2 million in the second year.

The wage agreement is for 7-1/2 per cent increase for the 1982/83 crop retroactive to January 1, 1983, or the commencement of the 1982/83 crop, whichever is earlier. The increase for the 1983/84 crop is effective from January 1, 1984, or the commencement of next year's crop, whichever is earlier.

Crop bonus agreement was for 5 per cent of gross crop earnings for the 1982/83 crop and 5 per cent of gross crop earnings for the 1983/84 crop. Payment of the crop bonus will be made not later than one month after the date on which the crop ends on each estate.

The new rates will become effective no later than the week beginning April 22, and the retroactive payments will be made no later than May 20, 1983.

The agreement is an amendment to the "open-ended" Collective Labour Relations Agreement between the parties.

The agreement stated: "The parties further agreed that the above Agreement was in good faith with the hope and understanding that there will be a smooth take off of the 1982/83 and 1983/84 crops on all Estates.

"The parties further agreed that if there is any industrial action before completion of all stages of the grievance procedure during the life of the above agreement, the Estate or Estates so affected shall not be required to pay the crop bonus portion of the settlement."

The negotiations commenced on February 22. The unions originally claimed a 20 per cent increase on wages for each of the two years and 20 per cent on crop bonus. The unions had rejected the 7-1/2 per cent offer on wages on March 8,

but at that time the producers had made no offer on crop bonus. At the same meeting, the producers provided figures showing what they was the poor financial state of the industry and the unions agreed to study the figures.

The SPF team of negotiators included: Mr. Ossie Simpson, Executive Director, Mr. Robert Henriques, Mr. D. T. Brown, Mr. O. K. Tousingh, Mr. Peter McConnell and Dr. C. A. Goodridge.

Among those representing the unions were, Mr. H. O. Thompson, President of the NWU, and Senator Clifton Stone, Island Supervisor of the BITU, as well as Mr. Ben Beale, Mr. Cecil Donaldson, Mr. E. Cousins, Mr. Charles Hamilton and Mr. J. McAnuff.

CSO: 3298/484

SAVING LITTLE ENERGY, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME TO BE ENDED

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Kingston Jamaica, Monday (CANA)—Jamaica is to cease its observation of Daylight Saving Time (DST) from April 1984 because the project caused disadvantages to several people and led to only an insignificant saving in energy costs, Prime Minister Edward Seaga has said.

DST was introduced here in 1974 and involved the advancing of the normal time of day, Eastern Standard Time (EST) by one hour takea advantage of the longer summertime daylight hours.

The annual change from EST to DST normally occurs in the last week-end of April and is reversed in the last week-end of October.

The change-over was originally made as a means of saving energy costs during large increases in the price of imported petroleum fuel in the 1970s.

It also proved convenient to certain sectors of the economy which had overseas linkages in such areas as foreign travel and the tourism sector, as the time difference between Jamaica, United States, Canada and the United Kingdom was preserved with the simultaneous shifts in clock time when all those countries went on DST.

However, the Prime Minister said the government, mindful of the disadvantages to them majority of the public, commissioned a survey to quantify the cost advantages of DST as an energy-saving strategy, and the survey showed that the savings in energy costs was in fact insignificant.

The decision was therefore made that as of 1984 DST will be discontinued in Jamaica and long notice was being given to ensure that there was minimum dislocation in those sectors likely to be affected by the decision, Mr. Seaga said.

CSO: 3298/484

LEA, JLP MONETARY POLICIES CRITICIZED

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 9-A

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Excerpt] Perhaps there is no simpler way to understand the pernicious inflation than by observing the furor with which the governments use the machine to print currency as a (false) road to salvation to finance their expenditures and promote (!!) development.

The last 6-year period is an excellent example, unfortunately. With Jose Lopez-Portillo, the money in circulation almost quadrupled, going from 200 million to about 800 million pesos.

This astronomical increase left the true needs of circulating currency--that is, those derived from new production /plus/ new population--far behind.

The sad result of the immense surplus was inflation that almost reached 100 percent last year and is among the largest in the world.

Also the lure that development can be accelerated with currency fell on its own. In spite of the astronomical monetary increase, the Mexican economy grew at a /lower/ rate with Lopez-Portillo (JLP) than with Gustavo Diaz Ordaz (GDO).

The inheritance is higher than it seems at first glance. Behind the immense surplus of currency that ran through the veins of Mexico and shot prices up lies devaluation, an economy that no longer knows how to do what it did before --disoriented by the lure of inflation that makes it unproductive--and the financing of a significant part of the government deficit.

The inflationary era which Mexico entered fully in the last 6-year period also explains the discouragement to domestic savings which accelerated the foreign debt and continued growing. It is indirectly to blame for the serious deterioration now of exports other than oil.

It is a fact that the machine to print currency worked at full steam.

Perhaps nothing extraordinary would have happened if the increase in circulating currency had not been so much higher than it was under Diaz Ordaz. The injection of currency increased at about 10 percent per year.

Inflation in 1982 by Cities

<u>City</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Tijuana	152.6
Mexicali	141.0
Ciudad Juarez Chih.	134.6
La Paz B.C.	134.4
Matamoros Tamps.	123.5
Chihuahua Chih.	111.6
Veracruz Ver.	110.4
Monclova Coah.	105.1
Navajoa Son.	103.5
Zamora Mich.	101.3
Chetumal, Q. Roo	100.4
Toluca, Mex.	99.5
Torreon, Coah.	98.9
Monterrey, N.O.	98.9
Guadalajara, Jal.	98.2
Cordova Ver.	97.4
Tampico Tamps.	96.7
San Luis Potosi	96.4
Cortazar Gto.	96.0
Tapachula Chis.	95.5
Hermosillo Son.	94.9
Parral Chih.	94.4
Mexico D.F.	94.4
Iguala Gro.	94.2
Fresnillo Zac.	94.1
Morelia Mich.	94.1
Leon Gt.	99.1
Aguascalientes	92.9
Merida	92.6
Colima	92.1
Vallehermoso	90.5
Acapulco Gro.	88.6
Puebla Pue.	88.1
Tulancingo Hgo.	85.9
Average	98.8

Before, inflation was held down (2.7 percent per year), basically through prudence in the supply of circulating currency.

Nevertheless, LEA stepped on the accelerator of the inflation that we suffer now and more than doubled the amount of money in circulation (at a rate /double/ GDO's). JLP simply accelerated to the floor.

Actually, Mexico's example validates the popular reasoning in the world that excessive circulating currency causes inflation.

The economists say that, to avoid the pernicious inflation, the government must follow the maxim: "If production grows, inject more circulating currency. If the population grows, inject more circulating currency."

The monetary authorities should satisfy the needs of the new production and the new population for circulating currency. More money /pressures/ higher prices.

Diaz Ordaz followed this rule.

But LEA injected money at a rate approximately 12 percent /higher/ than necessary. The result was an average annual inflation in his 6-year term of this percentage more or less.

JLP simply broke the rule as no Mexican president had ever done before. The injection of currency surpassed the real needs for currency by an average of 30 percent. Again, the inflationary rate was not very different and reached an average of about 35 percent.

7717

CSO: 3248/613

ARCHBISHOP SEES NEED FOR 'PURIFICATION' IN CHURCH

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Feb 83 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Carlos Velasco]

[Text] Hermosillo, Sonora, 19 Feb--The archbishop of this city, Carlos Quintero Arce, asserted today that a purification of the country's political class is becoming necessary so that the most capable and least servile people are the ones who govern Mexico. He added that "the Church also requires purification, because we are not saints either."

In an interview with EXCELSIOR, he also said that Mexico's businessmen must responsibly assume their role in society.

He then mentioned that the purification of the political class and the Church "depends on the people, who must be able to demand that they be present and that their voice be heard in the most important processes carried on in the republic."

Asserting that "with a purification of the political class Mexico would achieve greater progress and solve many of the problems we suffer from," Quintero Arce claimed that such a move would get rid of many elements that are actually only hurting the people of this nation.

In addition, national politics would once again become a disinterested profession, would return to its proper place in Mexico and would not continue undermining itself, he emphasized.

At one point in the interview, held at his private residence at 81 Doctor Paliza in the Centenario District in this city, the archbishop stated the following about the purification of the Church:

"This action would complement the Church's aim of being holy and of needing to purify itself."

He pointed out that this would make the Church a more effective instrument of salvation and would be a very clear sign of the good things to come."

He added that the Church "has been able to hold on high the spiritual and moral values that have always been the firm foundation of sound social life."

He cautioned that "I do not want to lapse into criticism of the government," pointing out that the time has come in Mexico for all of us to be consistent in what we do and say, "because it is often easy for people not to do what they say they will."

The best example of this is that we were told some time ago that we were administering abundance, whereas now we are suffering great poverty. We were told that prices would not rise, and the increases came mercilessly, Quintero Arce underscored.

Asserting that his remarks were not designed to annoy anyone and reiterating that he did not want to lapse into destructive criticism, the archbishop said that the Church "will not be anyone's tool to further subdue the people; on the contrary, through its preachings the Church seeks social justice."

He then said that in general a group of individuals have taken advantage of the Mexican people, asserting that "the egoism of those who always come to power and gain wealth has brought poverty to the people."

Referring to the current economic situation in Mexico, he said that all personal and interest group considerations must be laid aside, "because I would greatly regret it if at this moment hatred were sown among social classes, hatred that would lead nowhere."

"Instead of sowing hatred, instead of confronting each other, we Mexicans must all seek cooperation and unity. The most important thing at the moment is to preserve unity, and God willing, we will not come to violence and internal strife," he said.

In conclusion, Carlos Quintero Arce noted that politics in Mexico should serve the common good, not vice-versa, as is often the case. He also stated that it is very important right now to combat any sort of centralism, because it is no longer possible to govern the republic from its center.

8743

CSO: 3248/622

CLERICAL, PSUM TIES CRITICIZED

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] Socoltenango, Chiapas--Aurelio Zapata, a local priest, and PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] leader Jose Rodriguez have been engaged in clear-cut agitation efforts in a bid to "pull the rug out from under" constitutional mayor Octavio Velasco Gutierrez.

It can be readily seen that the two have been behind a number of recent demonstrations as well as the stumbling blocks that the mayor has encountered in attempting to undertake several town improvement projects.

According to unofficial sources, both Father Aurelio Zapata and Communist leader Jose Rodriguez are seeking to oust Velasco Gutierrez as mayor.

The residents of this municipality disapprove of such action, as most of them are hardworking people who want progress and a better life. However, they are being misguided by the PSUM, which is taking advantage of its "good relations" with the local parish priest.

8743

CSO: 3248/622

BRIEFS

TREMOR, TORNADO HIT MATAGALPA--A tornado with winds of up to 100 km per hour hit Ciudad Dario in Matagalpa Department yesterday, damaging 126 houses, and destroying seven. Wilfredo Barreto, minister of the 6th region, visited the area and authorized the distribution of food, clothing and soap for the neediest families in the area affected by the tornado. Here is correspondent (Francisco Flores), direct from Ciudad Dario: [Begin (Flores) recording] First, a tremor was felt. A few seconds later, there was a strong tornado, with winds of 100 km per hour and heavy rains. In Ciudad Dario, residents are still shocked over the moments of anguish they experienced yesterday afternoon. [Excerpt] [PA051325 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0318 GMT 5 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/653

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 1972 CONSTITUTION

PA010439 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 Mar 83

["List of Constitutional Amendments" from insert entitled: "Proposed Constitutional Amendments of the Republic of Panama: "Authorized Edition"--capitalized passages denote boldface as published]

[Text] ARTICLE 1. Articles 2, 4 and 5 of Title I of the 1972 Constitution will read as follows:

Title I. The Panamanian State

Article 2. Public power emanates solely from the people. It is exercised by the state as established in this Constitution, through the legislative, executive and judicial branches, which act in a limited manner and separately, but in harmonious cooperation.

Article 4. The Republic of Panama obeys the rules of international law.

Article 5. The territory of the Panamanian State is divided politically into provinces, which are in turn divided into districts, and the districts into corregimientos.

Other political divisions may be created by law, either to be subject to special regimes, or for administrative convenience or public service.

ARTICLE 2. In Title III of the Constitution, the following new articles are added with the subtitle Ecological Regime, Chapter 7; and Articles 22, 38, 50, 51, 58, 86, 87, 88, 90, 95, 104, 110 and 111 will read as follows:

Title III. Individual and Social Rights and Duties

Chapter 1. Basic Guarantees

New article. Any person who is arrested must be immediately informed, in a manner that he can understand, of the reasons for his arrest and of his corresponding constitutional and legal rights.

Persons accused of committing a crime have the right to be presumed innocent until their guilt is proved in a public trial, in which they have received all the guarantees for their defense. Anyone who is arrested will have the right, from the moment of arrest, to the assistance of an attorney in police and judicial transactions. The law will regulate this issue.

Article 22. Any individual who is arrested in other than the cases and the manner prescribed by this constitution and the law will be released on his own request or the request of another person by means of a writ of habeas corpus that may be interposed immediately after the arrest and without regard for the applicable penalty. The writ will be handled with precedence over other pending cases by summary procedure, and the proceedings may not be suspended because of time considerations or nonworking days.

Article 38. It is permissible to form companies, associations and foundations that do not run contrary to morality or to the law, and such organizations can be recognized as corporations.

Recognition will not be granted to associations based on ideas or theories that maintain an alleged superiority of one race or ethnic group or that defend or promote racial discrimination.

The capacities, recognition and regime of societies and other corporations will be determined by Panamanian law.

Article 50. In the case of a foreign war or internal disturbance that threatens public peace and order, a state of emergency may be declared throughout the entire republic or part of it, and the effects of articles [text here leaves an underlined space blank; see footnote] of the Constitution may be partially or totally suspended. (1)*

The state of emergency and the suspension of the effects of the constitutional provisions will be declared by the executive branch by decree agreed upon in a Cabinet meeting. The legislative branch, on its own or on instructions of the president of the republic, must discuss the declaration of the state of emergency if it lasts more than 10 days and must confirm or revoke, either totally or partially, the decisions adopted by the Cabinet with regard to the state of emergency.

When the reason for the declaration of the state of emergency ceases to exist, the legislative branch, if it is in session, or if not, the Cabinet, will lift the state of siege.

CHAPTER II. THE FAMILY

Article 51. The state protects matrimony. The law will determine everything related to the civil state of matrimony. The state will protect the

*Number refers to footnote, which reads: "(1) The references in the previous constitutional text include Articles 21, 21-A, 22, 25, 26, 28, 36, 37 and 43."

physical, mental and moral health of children and will guarantee their right to have food, health, education and social security and welfare. The elderly and the disabled will also have the right to this protection.

Article 58. The state will create an institution for the protection of the family for the purpose of:

1. Promoting responsible parenthood through family education.
2. Institutionalizing children's education in specialized centers to take care of those whose parents and tutors request it.
3. Protecting children and the elderly, guarding and socially readapting those who have been abandoned, those without protection, those who are in moral danger and those with behavior problems.

The law will organize and decide the functioning of a special jurisdiction for children, which among other functions, will hear about parenthood investigations, family neglect and problems of juvenile behavior.

CHAPTER V. EDUCATION

Article 86. Everyone has the right to education and the responsibility of acquiring an education. The state organizes and directs the public service for national education and guarantees to parents the right to participate in the educational process of their children.

Education is based on science, uses its methods, promotes its development and dissemination and applies its results to assure the development of the person and the family, and also to build and strengthen the Panamanian nation as a cultural and political community. Education is democratic and founded on principles of humane solidarity and social justice.

New article. Education must see to the harmonious and total development of the student within social coexistence, in the physical, intellectual, moral, cultural and civic aspects, and should provide him training for useful work for his own interest and overall benefit.

Article 87. The objective of Panamanian education is to develop in the student a national spirit based on the knowledge of the country's history and problems.

Article 88. The freedom to teach is guaranteed, and the right to open private schools according to the law is granted. The state can intervene in private schools to see that they comply with the national social objectives of culture, with the intellectual, moral, civic and physical development of students.

Public education will be imparted in official schools and private education in private schools. Teaching centers, either official or private, are open

to all students without regard to race, social position, political ideas, religion or the nature of the union of their parents or guardians. The law will regulate public and private education.

Article 90. The law will determine the state institution that will draft and approve the study plans, the teaching programs and educational levels, and the organization of a national system of educational orientation, all according to the national needs.

Article 95. The law can establish economic incentives for the benefit of public and private education and for the publication of national didactic works.

CHAPTER VI. HEALTH, SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Article 104. In matters of health, it is fundamentally up to the state to promote the following activities, including the functions of prevention, medication and rehabilitation:

1. To promote a national food and nutrition policy to guarantee a high nutritional level for the whole population, by promoting the supply, consumption and biological use of adequate foods.
2. To train the individual and social groups through educational actions that promote the knowledge of individual and collective duties and rights in matters of personal and environmental health.
3. To protect the health of the mother, the child and the adolescent, guaranteeing general attention during the period of gestation, nursing, growth and development during childhood and adolescence.
4. To fight contagious diseases through environmental sanitation, the supply of potable water and implement measures of immunization, prophylaxis and treatment provided collectively and individually to the whole population.
5. To create, according to the needs of each region, establishments in which general health services are provided and the supply of medication to the entire population. These health services and medication will be provided free to those that lack economic resources.
6. To regulate and oversee that health and safety conditions that should exist in jobs are complied with, by establishing a national policy of medicine and industrial and labor hygiene.

New article. The state will develop a national policy on medicine to promote production, supply, availability, quality and control on medicine for all the country's whole population.

New article. It is the duty of the state to establish a population policy according to the needs of the country's social and economic development.

NEW CHAPTER. ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

Article 110. It is a fundamental duty of the state to guarantee that the population lives in a healthy environment and free of contamination, an environment in which the air, water and food meet the requirements of adequate development of human life.

New article. The state and all the inhabitants of the national territory have the duty to promote a social and economic development that will prevent the environment's contamination, and will maintain the ecological balance and prevent the destruction of the ecological systems.

New article. The state will regulate, oversee and apply in due time the necessary measures to guarantee that the utilization of land, river and marine animal life, as well as forests, lands and water is carried out in a rational way, to prevent their degradation and to guarantee their preservation, renewal and permanency.

New article. The law will regulate the use of nonrenewable natural resources, in order to prevent social, economic and environmental damage from it.

CHAPTER VII. AGRARIAN SYSTEM

Article III. The state will give special attention to the general development of agriculture and livestock. It will promote the best use of the soil; it will oversee its rational distribution, adequate utilization and preservation in order to keep it in productive condition and will guarantee the right of all farmers to have a dignified existence.

Article 3. In Title IV of the Constitution, the following new articles are included and Articles 122, 123, 124, 126, 127 and 128 will remain as follows:

TITLE IV. POLITICAL RIGHTS. CHAPTER II. THE VOTE

Article 122. To vote is a right and duty of all citizens. The vote is free, equal, universal, secret and direct.

Article 123. It is the authorities' duty to guarantee the freedom and honesty of the balloting. It is prohibited:

1. To give official support direct or indirect to candidates for posts to be elected by the people's vote, even if the means used for this purpose are concealed.
2. To carry out propaganda activities and partisan affiliation in public offices.
3. To demand fees or contributions from public employees for political purposes, even if they claim to be voluntary.

4. To take any action that will prevent or make it difficult for a citizen to obtain, keep or personally present his cedula.

The law will establish the electoral violations and the respective punishments.

New article. The eligibility of public employees, as candidates to a post of popular election will be established by the law.

New article. The political parties express political pluralism; they respond to the formation and expression of the people's will and are fundamental instruments for political participation, without any obstacle for free nomination according to the form established by the law.

The law will regulate the recognition and existence of political parties but in no case can the law establish that a party needs more than 5 percent of the valid votes cast in presidential, legislative or corregimiento representatives elections--depending on which elections a party gets more votes--to exist.

Article 124. The formation of parties based on sex, race, religion or the destruction of the democratic form of government is illegal.

New article. The political parties will have equal rights to use the communications media administered by the central government and to search for, and receive, from all the public authorities reports on matters that concern them and that do not involve matters of confidential diplomatic relations.

CHAPTER 3. THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Article 126. In order to guarantee free, honest and efficient popular elections, an autonomous tribunal is hereby established. It will have legal status, its own patrimony and the right to administer itself. This will be recognized. It will interpret and privately apply the electoral law. It will direct, supervise and watch over the registering of vital statistics, deaths, naturalizations and other events and legal actions related to the civil status of the citizens, the issuing of personal identification cards and the phases of the electoral process.

The tribunal will have jurisdiction throughout the republic and it will be composed of three magistrates who must meet the requirements demanded of justices of the Supreme Court of Justice. The magistrates will be appointed for 10-year periods, one by the legislative branch, another by the executive branch, and the third by the Supreme Court of Justice. They will be chosen from among persons who are not part of the branch making the appointment. Two alternates will be appointed for each principal. These alternates cannot be officials of the Electoral Tribunal.

The Electoral Tribunal magistrates are responsible to the Supreme Court of Justice for faults or crimes committed in the exercise of their functions. Articles [underlined blank space as published] and the sanctions established by the law apply to them. (1) The references in the previous Constitution include Articles 187, 190, 192, 193, 194 and 196.

Article 127. In addition to the characteristics established by the law, the Electoral Tribunal will have characteristics that it will exercise privately, except those listed in numbers 5 and 7. These characteristics are the following:

1. It will register births, marriages, deaths, naturalizations and other events and legal actions related to the civil status of persons and it will make the appropriate notations in the proper register.
2. It will issue personal identification cards.
3. It will regulate the electoral law and it will interpret and apply that law. The Electoral Tribunal will be informed of any controversy resulting from the application of the electoral law.
4. It will punish, according to the law, faults and crimes committed against the freedom and purity of voting.
5. It will organize the list of voters.
6. It will organize, direct and supervise the electoral registry and resolve controversies, complaints and charges that could emerge in this regard.
7. It will process immigration and naturalization request files.
8. It will appoint the members of the electoral boards, where legally constituted parties must have guaranteed participation. The law will regulate this matter.

Appeals regarding decisions of the Electoral Tribunal are to be presented only to the Electoral Tribunal and once the legal procedures are completed, these decisions will be final, irrevocable and obligatory, except in the case of appeals of unconstitutionality.

Article 128: The Electoral Attorney's Office is a legal and supervisory agency which is independent of the Electoral Tribunal but which cooperates with it. The electoral attorney will be appointed by the executive branch for a 10-year period and such appointment must be approved by the legislative branch. The electoral attorney must meet the requirements that must be met by justices of the Supreme Court of Justice and will have the same restrictions. The electoral attorney's functions are:

1. To safeguard the political rights of the citizens.
2. To supervise the official conduct of public officials in matters involving electoral political rights and duties.
3. To investigate electoral crimes and irregularities.
4. To exercise other functions established by the law.

New article. The public authorities have the obligation to obey and to follow the orders and decisions of electoral officials. They must be obedient and provide the cooperation and help these officials need in carrying out their functions. Any omission or negligence in complying with this obligation will be punished according to the provisions of the law.

ARTICLE 4. Title V, on the legislative branch, is replaced in its entirety with the following new articles:

TITLE V. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

CHAPTER 1. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

New article. The legislative branch will be made up of a body known as the Legislative Assembly. Its members will be elected by party nomination and direct popular vote, as established in this Constitution.

New article. The Legislative Assembly will include the legislators elected in each electoral district, in accordance with the following rules:

1. Each province and the San Blas Territory will be divided into electoral districts.
2. Darien Province and the San Blas Territory will have two electoral districts each. One legislator will be elected for each electoral district.
3. The current administrative districts which, according to the most recent national population census, exceed 40,000 inhabitants, will form an electoral district for each 30,000 inhabitants and an additional electoral district per additional group of no less than 10,000 inhabitants. Panama District in turn will be divided into four electoral districts, in accordance with number 5 of this article and the law. In those electoral districts where two or more legislators must be elected, the election will be conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representativity established by the law.
4. Except for Darien Province, the San Blas Territory and the current administrative districts previously mentioned in number 3, in each province there will be as many electoral districts as appropriate, one for each 30,000 inhabitants and an additional electoral district per additional group of no less than 10,000 inhabitants, in accordance with the most recent

electoral population census and after deducting the population that corresponds to the current administrative districts mentioned in number 3. A legislator will be elected in each of these electoral districts.

5. Each electoral district will have a maximum of 40,000 inhabitants and a minimum of 20,000 inhabitants, but the law will be empowered to create electoral districts exceeding the maximum or reducing previously mentioned minimum in consideration of current political divisions, territorial proximity, the concentration of the Indian population, ties of vicinity, means of communication and the historical and cultural factors as basic criteria to group the population into electoral districts.

6. Those political parties that have obtained the number of votes required to exist as parties, but fail to elect a legislator in some electoral district, are entitled to one legislator's seat. The seat will go to the candidate who has obtained the most votes for legislator within his party.

7. Only the political parties will be able to nominate candidates for legislator.

Each legislator is entitled to two alternates, who will be elected in the same manner and on the same day as the legislator. They will replace him during his absences in the order in which they were elected.

After the first election of legislators discussed in this article, the law will be empowered to establish guidelines different from those contained in this provision for the formation of the electoral districts, bearing in mind the current administrative political division of the districts as the starting point for structuring the electoral districts.

New article. Legislators will be elected for a 5-year period, on the same day that the regular election for president and vice presidents of the republic is held.

New article. The Legislative Assembly will meet of its own right, without prior convocation, in the capital of the republic, for sessions that will last 8 months in the course of 1 year, divided into two regular legislative periods of 4 months each. These legislative periods will extend from 1 September to 31 December and from 1 March to 30 June.

The Legislative Assembly will also meet in special legislative session whenever convoked by the executive branch, for as long as the executive indicates, to discuss exclusively those issues that the executive branch may submit for its consideration.

New article. The legislators will act on behalf of the nation. At the Legislative Assembly they represent their respective political parties and the voters in their electoral districts.

New article. Political parties may revoke the mandate of the principal or alternate legislators that they have nominated. To do this, they must meet the following requirements and formalities:

1. The causes of revocation and the applicable procedures must be provided for in the party's statutes.
2. The causes must refer to serious violations of the statutes and the party's ideological platform or program and must have been approved by the Electoral Tribunal in a resolution enacted prior to the date of the nomination.
3. The affected person will have the right to be heard and to defend himself on two instances within his party.
4. The party decision to revoke the mandate will be subject to appeal to be heard privately by the Electoral Tribunal. The appeal will have a suspensive effect. Political parties may also revoke the mandate of principal or alternate legislators who have resigned from the party orally or in writing.

New article. Sessions devoted to the exercise of the jurisdictional functions of the Legislative Assembly will be known as judicial sessions regardless of the time when they are held and the manner in which said Legislative Assembly is convoked. The holding of such sessions will not alter the continuity and the duration of a legislative term and will end only when the assembly has issued a ruling on the pending case. The Legislative Assembly may meet to exercise jurisdictional functions on its own, without a prior summons.

New article. To be a legislator it is necessary:

1. To be a Panamanian by birth or by naturalization with 15 years of residence in the country after the date of naturalization.
2. To be a citizen on good standing.
3. To be at least 21 years old on the date of election.
4. To not have been convicted by the judicial branch of any crime against the public administration with a punishment of imprisonment, or by the Electoral Tribunal for crimes against the freedom and purity of the vote.
5. To have been a resident of the corresponding electoral district for at least 1 year immediately prior to the nomination.

New article. Members of the Legislative Assembly are not legally accountable for the opinions they express or the votes they cast in the exercise of their duties.

New article. Members of the Legislative Assembly will be entitled to immunity for 5 days prior to the start of each legislature, during the legislative period and for up to 5 days afterward. During that period they may not be pursued or arrested for criminal or police causes without the prior authorization of the Legislative Assembly.

This immunity has no effect when renounced by the legislator or in cases of flagrant crime.

A legislator is subject to civil suit, but no embargoes or other sequestration measure may be decreed against his estate from the day of his election until the expiration of his term.

New article. Principal legislators, or alternates when they are serving in the post, may not accept any paid government position. If they should do so, the position of principal or alternate, as the case may be, will be declared definitely vacant. Exceptions are appointments as minister, deputy minister, director general or manager of autonomous or semiautonomous agencies and diplomatic posts, in which case, acceptance produces only a temporary vacancy for the period in which the individual is serving in those posts. Service as a teacher or professor in government or private centers of education is compatible with the post of legislator.

New article. Legislators will receive the stipends established by law, which will be chargeable to the National Treasury. However, any increase in such stipends will become effective only after the conclusion of the term of the Legislative Assembly that approved the increase.

New article. Legislators may not themselves, or through other persons, conclude any contracts with the branches of the state or with any institutions or enterprises linked to the state. They may not receive from anyone a power of attorney to transact business with such state branches, institutions or enterprises.

The following cases are exceptions.

1. When the legislator makes personal or professional use of public services or carries out routine operations of that type with institutions or enterprises linked to the state.
2. When the contracts involved that are signed with any state branches or agencies mentioned in this article are awarded by means of bidding to non-stock corporations which the legislator is a partner, as long as his participation in such corporations predates his election to the post.
3. When, by means of bidding or otherwise, contracts are concluded between state branches or agencies and stock corporations in which a total of no more than 20 percent of the capital stock belongs to one or more legislators.

4. When the legislator practices the profession of attorney, during the period of sessions or at other times, by license.

In the cases of numbers 1, 2 and 3 of this article, the legislator will lose immunity in all matters related to such contracts and transactions.

New article. The legislative function is exercised by the Legislative Assembly. It consists of enacting the necessary laws to fulfill the purposes and exercise the functions of the state as declared in this Constitution, especially the following:

1. To enact, modify, amend or revoke national codes.
2. To enact the general wage law proposed by the executive branch.
3. To approve or reject, before ratification, the treaties and international agreements signed by the executive branch.
4. To participate in the approval of the national budget, in line with the provisions of Title X of this Constitution.
5. To declare war and authorize the executive branch to negotiate for peace.
6. To declare amnesty for political crimes.
7. To establish or modify the political division of the national territory.
8. To determine the alloy, the weight, value, form, type and denomination of the national currency.
9. To make decisions on the allocation of national property for public uses.
10. To establish national taxes and contributions, and official income and monopolies to attend to public services.
11. To dictate the general or specific standards to be upheld by the executive branch, the autonomous and semiautonomous agencies, and the state and mixed enterprise when--in the case of the last group--the state has administrative, financial or stock control, for the following effects: to negotiate for and acquire loans; to organize the public credit; to recognize the national debt and arrange for servicing it; to set and modify tariffs, rates and other provisions affecting the customs system.
12. To determine, at the proposal of the executive branch, the structure of national administration by the creation of ministries, autonomous and semiautonomous agencies, state enterprises and other public establishments and distribute among them the functions and businesses of the administration, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the state's administrative functions.

13. To organize the public services established in this Constitution; issue or authorize the issuance of the social pact and the statutes of mixed economy associations and the charters of industrial or commercial state enterprises, as well as to dictate the rules applicable to the professions noted in Title XII.

14. To decree the rules applicable to the conclusion of contracts to which the state or any of its agencies or enterprises is a party or in which they have some interest.

15. To approve or reject contracts to which the state or any of its agencies or enterprises is a party or has some interest, if said contracts were not previously regulated in accordance with number 11 or if some of the stipulations of the contract failed to meet the terms of the authorizations law.

16. To grant specific special powers to the executive branch whenever this branch requests it and necessity so demands. These powers will be exercised during the Legislative Assembly's recess by means of decree-laws.

The law granting these powers will specifically state the subject and purpose of these decree-laws, which cannot include the matters mentioned in numbers 3, 4 and 10 of this article, nor the development of the fundamental guarantees, suffrage, the parties system or the specific crimes and punishments. The law on powers expires at the beginning of the next regular legislative period.

Any decree-law that the executive branch issues while exercising the powers granted to it, must be submitted to the legislative branch so that it can legislate on the subject during the regular legislative period immediately following the promulgation of the decree-law in question. At any time and of its own initiative the legislative branch can abolish, modify or add to the decree-laws so dictated, without any limitation as to subjects.

17. To dictate the organic regulation of its internal structure.

New article. The following are judicial functions of the Legislative Assembly:

1. To hear the accusations or charges brought against the president of the republic or the judges of the Supreme Court of Justice. To judge them if necessary for actions carried out in the exercise of their functions, which are either detrimental to the free functioning of the public power or which violate the Constitution or the laws.

2. To hear the accusations or charges brought against Legislative Assembly members and to determine if there is any room for filing suit, in which case it will authorize the trial of the legislator in question for the crime of which the legislator is specifically accused.

New article. The following are administrative functions of the Legislative Assembly:

1. To examine the credentials of its own members and to decide if they have been issued in accordance with the law.
2. To approve or reject the resignation of the president and the vice presidents of the republic.
3. To grant leave to the president of the republic when he so requests and to authorize him to leave the national territory in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
4. To either approve or disapprove the appointments of the judges of the Supreme Court of Justice, of the attorney general and of the administration's attorney general, as well as other appointments made by the executive branch which, in accordance with either this Constitution or the law require the ratification of the Legislative Assembly.
5. To appoint the comptroller general of the republic, the deputy comptroller general of the republic and the magistrate of the Electoral Tribunal and his alternate in accordance with this Constitution.
6. To appoint, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the internal regulation, the permanent commissions of the Legislative Assembly and the investigative commissions on any matter of public interest, so that the plenum can be informed and can take whatever measures it deems suitable.
7. To cast votes of censure against the ministers of state when, in the view of the Legislative Assembly, they are responsible for either illegal or abusive actions or grave mistakes that have harmed the interests of the state. In order for the censure to be valid, it must be proposed in writing 6 days prior to its debate by no less than half of the legislators, and it must be approved by the votes of 2/3 of the assembly.
8. To examine and approve or ascribe responsibilities in connection with the general state of the treasury submitted to it by the executive branch, with the participation of the comptroller general of the republic.
9. To summon officials appointed or confirmed by the legislative branch, state ministers and general directors or managers of all the state's autonomous, semiautonomous, and industrial and commercial enterprises as well as those from mixed enterprises listed in number 11 of article [text here leaves an underlined space blank], number [text here leaves an underlined space blank]. Whenever the report is to be oral, the summons must be served with no less than a 48-hour notice and the questions must be in writing and specific. The officials who will be given the report must go to, and be heard at, the session for which they were summoned and the debate can be continued in following sessions on a decision from the Legislative

Assembly. The debate cannot be extended to cover matters not included in the specific questionnaire.

10. To rehabilitate those who have lost their citizens' rights.

11. To approve, reform or annul states of emergency and suspension of constitutional guarantees decrees according to provisions of the Constitution.

New article. All Legislative Assembly commissions will be elected by the Legislative Assembly through a system that will guarantee the proportional representation of the minority.

New article. The Legislative Assembly is prohibited to do the following:

1. Issue laws contrary to the letter or spirit of this Constitution.
2. Meddle, through resolutions, in matters that are of the sole province of the other state branches.
3. Acknowledge, on behalf of the public treasurer, indemnizations previously unpaid by the appropriate authorities and allocate funds for scholarships, pensions, retirement and fees or expenditures not decreed in accordance with the previously enacted general laws.
4. Decree banishment or prosecution of persons or corporations.
5. Urge or compel public officials to adopt a given measure.
6. Make appointments other than those specified by this Constitution and the laws.
7. Demand information from the executive branch on instructions given to diplomatic personnel or on negotiations of a confidential nature.
8. Order and authorize allocations and programs not considered in the state's general budget, except in emergency cases that are so declared by the executive branch.
9. Delegate any of its functions except as is considered in number [text here leaves an underlined space blank] or article [text here leaves an underlined space blank].
10. Applaud or criticize actions of the president of the republic.

CHAPTER 2. FORMATION OF THE LAWS

New article. The laws have their origin in the Legislative Assembly and are divided as follows:

A) Organic, those issued in compliance with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of article [text here leaves an underlined space blank].

B) Ordinary, those issued in relations with the other numbers of that article.

New article: The laws may be proposed by:

A) When they are organic:

1. Permanent committees of the Legislative Assembly.
2. State ministers when authorized by the cabinet.
3. The Supreme Court of Justice, the nation's attorney general and the administration's attorney when the law deals with issuing or reforming national codes.

B) When the laws are ordinary, they will be proposed by any member of the Legislative Assembly and by state ministers and presidents of provincial councils when authorized by the cabinet and the provincial council, respectively.

All these officials will have the right to speak in the Legislative Assembly sessions. The provincial council presidents will have the right to speak whenever bills proposed by them are being debated.

For an organic law to be issued, it must have the yea vote of the absolute majority of the Legislative Assembly members in a second and third debate. Ordinary laws will only require the approval of the majority of the legislators participating in the corresponding sessions.

New article. No bill will become a law of the republic unless approved by the Legislative Assembly in the course of three debates held on different days and approved by the executive branch in the manner established in this Constitution.

The first debate of any bill is the one conducted by the commission to which the previous article refers.

A bill may go on to second debate when a majority of the Legislative Assembly, at the request of one of its members, to revoke the ruling of the commission and give its approval to the project. [sentence as published]

New article. Any bill that has not been submitted by one of the commissions will be passed on by the president of the Legislative Assembly to an ad hoc commission that will study and discuss it within a reasonable period of time.

New article. Once approved, a bill will be submitted to the executive branch. If this branch approves it, it will have it promulgated as law. In the opposite case, it will return the bill with its objections to the Legislative Assembly.

New article. The executive branch will have a maximum period of 30 working days to return any bill with objections.

If after this period is up the executive branch has not returned the bill with its objections, it will have to approve it and to have it promulgated.

New article. The bill objected to in its entirety by the executive branch will return to the Legislative Assembly for third debate. If only partially objected to, it will go back for second debate, for the sole purpose of considering the objections made.

If, once the objections have been considered by the Legislative Assembly, the bill is approved by 2/3 of the legislators that make up the Legislative Assembly, the executive branch will approve the bill and will have it promulgated without being able to introduce new objections. If the bill is not approved by this proportion of legislators, it will be rejected.

New article. If the executive branch objects to a bill because it is unfeasible, but the majority indicated above insists on adopting it, the executive branch will submit the bill to the Supreme Court of Justice for it to decide on its unconstitutionality. The court decision declaring the bill constitutional, obliges the executive branch to approve and promulgate it.

New article. If the executive branch fails to fulfill its duty to approve and promulgate the laws in the terms and under the conditions established in this title, the president of the Legislative Assembly will approve them and have them promulgated.

New article. All laws will be promulgated within the 6 working days following their approval and will become effective from the moment of their promulgation, except if the law itself establishes that it is to be effective on some later date. The extemporaneous promulgation of a law does not determine its unconstitutionality.

New article. Laws can be motivated, and their text will be preceded by the following notation:

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DECREES:

New article. The bills that of the absolute majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly. [sentence as published] Regular assemblies will require only the approval of the majority of the legislators attending the corresponding sessions.

ARTICLE 5. Title on the executive branch is replaced in its entirety by the following new articles:

TITLE VI. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

CHAPTER 2. THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

New article. The executive branch is made up of the president of the republic and the ministers of state, in accordance with the regulations established in this Constitution.

New article. The president of the republic performs his duties either by himself, with the participation of the minister of the respective branch, with the participation of all the ministers in a cabinet council or in any other manner specified in this Constitution.

New article. The president of the republic will be elected for a 5-year term by direct popular vote and by a majority of votes. First and second vice presidents will be elected along with the president, in the same manner and for the same term. The vice president will replace the president during his absences, in accordance to the provisions of Articles 168 and 169 of this Constitution.

New article. Those citizens elected president or vice presidents of the republic cannot be reelected for the same post for the two presidential terms immediately following.

New article. In order to become president or vice president of the republic it is necessary:

1. To be Panamanian by birth.
2. To have turned 35.

New article. Those convicted by the judicial branch of crimes against the public administration may not be elected president or vice president of the republic.

New article. The president and vice presidents of the republic will take office before the Legislative Assembly on 1 September following their election and will take the following oath: "I swear to God and the homeland to faithfully comply with the Constitution and the laws of the republic."

A citizen who holds no religious beliefs may omit the reference to God in his oath.

Article 162. If for some reason the president or the vice presidents of the republic are unable to take their oaths of office before the Legislative Assembly, they will do so before the Supreme Court of Justice. If this is not possible, before a notary public and, failing this, before two qualified witnesses.

New article. The following functions are exercised by the president of the republic on his own:

1. Freely appointing and dismissing ministers of state.
2. Coordinating the work of the administration and public establishments.
3. Ensuring that public order is preserved.
4. Adopting the necessary measures for the Legislative Assembly to meet on the day set by the Constitution or issuing a decree calling for special sessions.
5. Presenting at the beginning of each legislative period, on the first day of regular sessions, an address on administrative affairs.
6. Opposing draft laws that are considered inadvisable or unfeasible.
7. Invalidating the orders or provisions dictated by a minister of state by virtue of Article 167.
8. Other functions delegated to him by the Constitution or under the law.

New article. The following functions are carried out by the president of the republic with the participation of the respective minister:

1. Approving and promulgating laws, obeying them and ensuring that they are enforced to the letter.
2. Appointing chiefs and officers of the public forces in accordance with the military seniority list and assigning the use of those forces.
3. Freely appointing and dismissing provincial governors.
4. Informing the legislative branch of vacancies in posts to be filled by that body.
5. Overseeing the collection and administration of national income.
6. Appointing in line with the provisions of Title 13, persons to fill any national level posts or positions which are not to be filled by another official or corporation.
7. Sending to the legislative branch, within the time period established in article [text here leaves an underlined space blank], the draft general budget of the state for the next fiscal year, except when the date on which the president takes office coincides with the beginning of sessions. In this case, the president of the republic should do this within the first 40 days of the sessions.

8. Concluding administrative contracts for providing services and carrying out public works according to the provisions of this Constitution and the law.

9. Directing foreign relations, concluding treaties and public agreements, which will be submitted to the legislative branch for consideration, and accrediting and receiving diplomatic and consular officials.

10. Directing, regulating and inspecting the services provided for in this constitution.

11. Appointing the chiefs, managers and directors of public, autonomous and semiautonomous agencies as well as those of state enterprises according to the provisions of the laws regulating them.

12. Decreeing pardons for political crimes, reducing sentences and granting paroles to common criminals.

13. To confer military ranks in accordance with the corresponding legal dispositions.

14. To regulate laws so that they can be better implemented but without violating the letter or spirit of the law.

15. To grant permission to nationals requesting it so that they can accept positions with foreign governments in cases when this is necessary according to the law.

16. To exercise the other functions it has according to this Constitution and the law.

New article. The duties of the vice presidents of the republic are:

1. To replace the president of the republic, on his orders, in case of a temporary or absolute absence of the president.

2. To participate, with voice but without vote, in cabinet meetings.

3. To advise the president of the republic on matters to be determined by him.

4. To assist and to represent the president of the republic in public ceremonies, national and international congresses and special missions assigned by the president.

New article. The president and the vice presidents of the republic can be absent from their posts. If the absence will be for a period not to exceed 90 days, a license for this absence will be issued by the cabinet council. If the absence is to exceed 90 days, it will be required that the license be issued by the Legislative Assembly.

During the period that the president is on leave, he will be replaced by the first vice president, and in his absence, by the second vice president. Whoever replaces the president will have the title of acting president of the republic.

When for any reason an absence of the president cannot be filled by the vice presidents, one of the state ministers--who will be elected by a majority of the ministers--will replace him. This minister must fill the requirements necessary to be president of the republic and will have the title of minister in charge of the presidency of the republic. The deadlines listed in this article and the following include nonworking days.

New article. The president of the republic can be absent from the national territory, without requesting leave of absence:

1. For a maximum of 10 days without requesting any kind of authorization.
2. For a period greater than 10 days but not to exceed 30, with the authorization of the cabinet council.
3. For a period exceeding 30 days, with the authorization of the Legislative Assembly.

If the president is absent for more than 10 days, the first vice president will be in the charge of the presidency and in his absence, the second vice president. If the second vice president cannot take charge, one of the ministers will do so, according to the provisions of Article 168.

New article. If there is an absolute absence by the president of the republic, the first vice president will fill the post for the remaining of the period, and in his absence, the second vice president.

When the first vice president assumes the post of the president, the second vice president will fulfill the duties of the first vice president.

When for any reason, the absolute absence of the president cannot be filled by the vice presidents, the duties of the presidency will be performed by one of the state ministers. He will be elected by a majority of the ministers and must fill the requirements necessary to be president of the republic. His title will be minister in charge of the presidency of the republic.

When the absolute absence of the president and the vice presidents occurs at least 2 years before the end of the presidential term, the minister in charge of the presidency will call elections for president and vice presidents for a date no later than 4 months from the date of the election call so that the citizens elected may be sworn in within 6 months from the date of the election call and be in office for the remainder of the term. The respective decree will be issued no later than 8 days after the minister in charge has taken office.

New article. The compensation assigned by law to the president and vice presidents of the republic can be modified, but the change will become effective in the following presidential period.

New article. The president and the vice presidents of the republic are responsible only in the following cases:

1. For abusing their constitutional duties.
2. For violent actions or coercion during an electoral process, for preventing the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, and for hindering the performance of the duties of this or the other public bodies or authorities established by the Constitution.
3. For committing crimes against the international personality of the state or against the public administration.

In the first two cases, the sanction will be dismissal and disqualification from holding a public post for the amount of time established by the law.

In the third case, common law will be implemented.

New article. The following cannot be elected vice president of the republic:

1. A president of the republic who performs his duties at any time, if the election of the vice president of the republic is for the period following his own.
2. Relatives within the fourth degree by blood or second by marriage of the president of the republic, for the period following that in which the president of the republic held his post.
3. The citizen who, as vice president of the republic, held the post of president of the republic in permanent fashion at any time during the 3 years prior to the period for which the election is held.
4. Relatives within the fourth degree by blood or second by marriage of the citizen mentioned in the above numeral, for the period immediately following that in which he held the post of president of the republic.
5. Relatives within the fourth degree by blood or second by marriage of the president of the republic.

CHAPTER 2. THE MINISTERS OF STATE

New article. The ministers of state are the chiefs of their respective branches and along with the president of the republic participate in the performance of his duties in accordance with this Constitution and the law.

New article. The distribution of functions among the ministers of state will be made in accordance with the law and their affinities.

New article. The ministers of state must be Panamanian by birth, must have turned 25 and the judicial branch must not have deprived them of their freedom as a sentence for committing crimes against the public administration.

New article. Relatives of the president of the republic within the fourth degree by blood or second by marriage cannot be appointed ministers of state. Nor can individuals related in this manner become members of the same cabinet.

New article. The ministers of state will personally submit to the Legislative Assembly an annual report on the state of affairs of their ministries and on the reforms they may deem appropriate to introduce.

CHAPTER 3. THE CABINET COUNCIL

New article. The cabinet council is the meeting among the president of the republic, who will preside over it, or the person in charge of the presidency, the vice presidents of the republic and the ministers of state.

New article. Following are the duties of the cabinet council:

1. To act as a consultative body in the matters submitted for its consideration by the president of the republic and in those concerning which it must be heard in accordance with the Constitution or the law.
2. To agree with the president of the republic on the appointment of the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, the attorney general, the administration's attorney and their respective alternates, subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly.
3. To agree on the signing of contracts, the negotiation of loans and the sale of the nation's land, goods and chattels in accordance with the law.
4. Agree with the president of the republic that he may compromise on or submit to arbitration matters of litigation in which the state may be a party, for which the approval of the attorney general of the nation is needed.
5. Decree, under the collective responsibility of all its members, a state of emergency and the suspension of the pertinent constitutional provisions, in conformity with the provisions of Article 50 of this Constitution.
6. Demand of the public officials, state agencies and joint enterprises the reports that it considers necessary or advisable to expedite the matters that it must consider, and summon those officials and the representatives of those enterprises to give verbal reports.

7. Negotiate for and contract loans; organize public credit; recognize the national debt and arrange for its servicing; set and modify tariffs, rates and other provisions of the customs system, subject to the rules of law contained in the numbered paragraph of the article. As long as the legislative branch has not enacted a law or laws containing the pertinent general rules, the executive branch may exercise this function and send to the legislative branch a copy of all the decrees that it issues in exercising this power.

8. Enact its own internal regulations and exercise other functions as provided for by the Constitution or by law.

CHAPTER 4. THE GENERAL STATE COUNCIL

New article. The General State Council consists of a meeting of the president of the republic, who presides, with the vice presidents of the republic, the ministers of state, the directors general of autonomous and semiautonomous agencies, the commander in chief of the National Guard, the comptroller general of the republic, the attorney general of the nation, the administration's legal adviser, the president of the Legislative Assembly and the presidents of the provincial councils.

New article. It is the function of the General State Council to act as a consultative body on matters presented to it by the president of the republic or the president of the Legislative Assembly.

Article 6. Title VII on the judicial branch is replaced in its entirety by the following articles:

TITLE VII. THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CHAPTER 1. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

New article. The administration of justice is free, expeditious and uninterrupted.

Plain paper will be used in initiating and continuing all proceedings and no tax of any kind will be imposed.

Vacations taken by the magistrates, judges and judicial employees will not interrupt the continuous functioning of the respective tribunals.

New article. The judicial branch is comprised of the Supreme Court of Justice, the tribunals and the courts established by law.

New article. The Supreme Court of Justice will be comprised of the number of magistrates determined by law, appointed by agreement of the cabinet, subject to the approval of the legislative branch, for a period of 10 years. A definitive vacancy of a magistrate's position will be filled by a new appointment for the remainder of the respective term.

Two magistrates will be appointed every 2 years, except in cases in which more than two or less than two magistrates are appointed because of the number of magistrates that make up the court. When the number of magistrates on the court is increased, the necessary appointments for that purpose will be made and the respective law will make the appropriate provisions to maintain the principle of staggered appointments.

Each magistrate will have an alternate, appointed in the same manner as the principal and for the same period, to replace him in his absences according to the law.

The law will divide the court into tribunals, each formed by three permanent magistrates.

New article. In order to be a magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice, it is necessary:

1. To be Panamanian by birth.
2. To have turned 35.
3. To be fully enjoying civil and political rights.
4. To have graduated from law schools and to have registered a university degree at the office indicated by the law.
5. To have completed a period of 10 years during which the profession of lawyer or any post in the judicial branch or the Electoral Tribunal requiring a law degree from the university has been exercised, or during which one has served as a law professor at a university.

The validity of the credentials of the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice granted in accordance with previous constitutional provisions is recognized.

New article. A person convicted and sentenced by a judicial court for a criminal offense cannot hold any post in the judicial branch.

New article. The Supreme Court of Justice constitutional and legal functions are:

1. To safeguard the integrity of the Constitution, for which the court with all its members, the nation's attorney general and the public prosecutor will hear and decide on the unconstitutionality of laws, decrees, agreements, resolutions and other acts that are submitted for annulment to the court by any person because of their content or form.

If during a trial the judge in charge of the case becomes aware or any of the parties bring to his attention that the legal disposition or regulation being applied in the case is unconstitutional, the matter will be submitted

to the Supreme Court of Justice, unless the court has already passed a ruling on the subject. In this case the trial will proceed until a decision is reached.

The parties can only submit a petition of unconstitutionality once.

2. To rule on suits under administrative law concerning acts or omissions regarding faulty or deficient administration of public services, resolutions, orders or dispositions carried out, taken, issued or committed in exercise of their duties or under the pretext of exercising them by public officials; national, provincial and municipal authorities; and officials of autonomous and semiautonomous institutions. To this effect, the Supreme Court of Justice, with the participation of the nation's attorney general, can annul rulings declared illegal, can restore violated individual rights, can issue new dispositions to replace those declared illegal and issue a preliminary ruling regarding the meaning and significance of an administrative act or its legal aspect.

The persons affected by a ruling, a resolution, an order or a disposition, and also individuals or corporations whose residence is in this country, can resort to the jurisdiction for suits under administrative law.

The decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice while exercising its functions as established in this article are final, definite, mandatory and should be published in the official gazette.

New article. Rulings by the Supreme Court of Justice on recourses of unconstitutionality and for constitutional guarantees for individual rights are unappealable.

New article. Magistrates and judges cannot hold any other public post, other than professor of law at a university.

New article. In tribunals and courts that are established by law, the magistrates will be appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice and the judges by their superiors. Subordinate personnel will be appointed by the respective tribunal or judge. All these appointments will be made in accordance with the judicial career service system, according to the provisions of Title XII.

New article. Magistrates and judges are independent in carrying out their duties and are bound to nothing more than the Constitution and the law. However, those of lower courts are obliged to enforce and obey the decisions dictated by their superiors in hierarchy who revoke or amend, in response to legal appeals, the resolutions made by the lower court judges.

New article. Positions in the judicial branch are incompatible with any participation in politics--except for the casting of votes in elections--with the practice of the legal profession and with commerce or any other remunerated post, except as provided for in the article.

New article. The wages and allotments of Supreme Court justices will not be less than those of ministers of state.

Any elimination of positions in the judicial branch will become effective at the end of the corresponding period.

New article. The Supreme Court of Justice and the attorney general of the nation will prepare the respective budgets of the judicial branch and the attorney general's office and will remit them in timely fashion to the executive branch for inclusion in the draft general budget for the public sector. The president of the court and the attorney general will be able to justify the respective draft budgets during all phases of their application.

The budgets of the judicial branch and the attorney general's office together will not be less than 2 percent of the central government's current income.

However, if this amount is higher than the actual requirements to meet the fundamental expenses proposed by the judicial branch and the attorney general's office, the executive branch will include the balance in other allotments for expenses or investments in the central government's budget, so that the Legislative Assembly can decide on its use.

New article. Trial laws will be approved based among other things on the following principles:

1. Simplification of procedures, economy in legal costs, and absence of red tape.
2. The purpose of the trial is the recognition of rights contained in the basic laws.

New article. Magistrates and judges will not be arrested unless there is a written order from the judicial authority entitled to judge them.

New article. The law will regulate the means to give advice and legal defense to those who are unable to pay for a lawyer. This will be done through official institutions created for this purpose, and through lawyers' professional associations recognized by the state.

Article 197. The jury system trial is established. The law will determine the cases to be decided with this system.

CHAPTER 2. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

New article. The attorney general of the nation, the administration's legal adviser, prosecutors, representatives and other government officials established by the law will be in charge of the attorney general's office. Agents of the attorney general's office are entitled to perform the duties of the attorney general of the nation upon delegation, as determined by the law.

Each attorney general's office agent will have two substitutes, who will take turns replacing him during temporary absences, or during definite absences until a new agent is appointed.

New article. The functions of the department of the public prosecutor are:

1. To defend the interests of the state and the municipality.
2. To see that laws, court rulings and administrative dispositions are carried out.
3. To oversee the conduct at work of public officials and see that they all comply with their duties adequately.
4. To prosecute crimes and violations of constitutional and legal dispositions.
5. To serve as legal counselor to administrative officials.
6. To carry out other duties established by the law.

New article. The requisites to be the nation's attorney general and public prosecutor are the same required to be a justice of the Supreme Court of Justice. Both will be appointed for a 10-year term.

New article. The special functions of the nation's attorney general are:

1. To accuse before the Supreme Court of Justice those public officials whose prosecution falls under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
2. To see that the members of the department of the public prosecutor faithfully comply with their duties, and to see that they answer for faults and violations they commit.

New article. The same dispositions applied to judicial branch officials are applied to those of the department of the public prosecutor, as established in the articles.(1) [note follows immediately in text, instead of at bottom of page] (1) References in the text of the previous Constitution include articles 187, 190, 192, 194 and 195.

New article. The nation's attorney general, the public prosecutor and their alternates will be appointed in the same manner as the justices of the Supreme Court of Justice.

District attorneys and court officials will be appointed by their immediate superiors. The rest of the subordinate personnel will be appointed by the district attorney or the respective court official. All these appointments will be made according to the judicial career service system as established in Title XII.

Article 7. A new title is included under the title of Municipal and Provincial Systems, which will be Title VIII, with three chapters, whose titles are Corregimiento Representatives, Municipal System and Provincial System, with the articles of the 1972 Constitution that were not reformed and the following new articles.

TITLE VIII. MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL SYSTEMS

CHAPTER 1. CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES

New article. Requisites to be a corregimiento representative:

1. To be Panamanian by birth or have obtained naturalized Panamanian citizenship 10 years prior to the date of the election.
2. To have reached the age of 18.
3. Not to have been convicted by the judicial branch of any crime against the public administration with a prison term, or a crime against the freedom and purity of voting.
4. To have been a resident of the district he represents for at least 1 year prior to the election.

New article. A representative will lose his seat for the following reasons:

1. By voluntarily moving to another corregimiento.
2. By a court conviction of a crime.
3. A turnover of the assembly.

New article. In case of a temporary or permanent absence of the main representative of the corregimiento, his alternate will take over. When a permanent vacancy of the main representative and his alternate occurs, new elections should be held within the following 6 months to elect a new representative and his alternates.

New article. Corregimiento representatives may not be appointed to salaried public posts by their respective municipalities. Violation of this precept nullifies their appointment.

The post of corregimiento representative will be considered vacant with an appointment to the judicial branch, public ministry or Electoral Tribunal, and temporarily vacant with an appointment to minister of state, head of autonomous or semiautonomous institution, diplomatic mission or governor of a province.

New article. The corregimiento representatives are not legally responsible for any opinion expressed during the exercise of their positions as members of the provincial council.

New article. The corregimiento representatives will receive a remuneration that will be payable from the national or municipal treasury, as determined by law.

CHAPTER 2. THE MUNICIPAL REGIME

Article 212. Every district will have a body that will be called the Municipal Council, comprised of all corregimiento representatives who have been appointed within the district. If there are less than five corregimientos in a district, the necessary councilmen will be appointed by the people's direct vote--according to the procedure and system of proportionate representation established by law--so that there are five members in the Municipal Council.

The council will appoint a president and a vice president from among its members. The latter will replace the former during his absences.

Article 216. Every district will have a mayor, head of the administration, and two deputies, who will be chosen by the people's direct vote for a 5-year period.

Nevertheless, the law can rule that the mayors or deputies in one or more, or all, of the districts can be freely appointed or removed by the executive branch.

New article. Every district will have a treasurer, appointed by the council for a period that will be determined by law. He will be head of the office or department in charge of collecting municipal taxes and paying the municipal bills.

The law will rule that for those districts whose tax volume reaches an amount determined by law, an audit office or department will be established. An official appointed by the comptrollership general of the republic will be in charge of this office.

Article 217. The mayors will have, in addition to the duties established by Article 209 of this Constitution and the law, the following powers:

1. Present draft agreements, specially concerning revenues and the budget.
2. Approve local administration expenses according to the budget and book-keeping regulations.
3. Appoint or dismiss corregidores and other public municipal officials whose appointment is not the responsibility of another authority, subject to what is established in Title XII.
4. Promote the progress of the municipal community and assure that all public officials fulfill their duties.

Article 225. The community council will be comprised of the corregimiento representative as its president, the corregidor and five citizens who reside in the corregimiento, who will be appointed according to the law.

The community councils may request the cooperation and advice of national or municipal public officials, and of the citizens.

The law may establish a special regime for the community councils, which will operate in communities that are not administratively comprised of municipalities or corregimientos.

CHAPTER 3. THE PROVINCIAL REGIME

Article 204. In each province there will be a governor, who is to be freely appointed and dismissed by the executive branch. The governor will be the executive branch representative in his administrative division. Each governor will have an alternate, who will also be appointed by the executive branch.

The law will determine the functions and duties of the governors.

Article 205. The provinces will have the number of districts established by law.

Article 206. A provincial council will function in each province. It will comprise all the corregimiento representatives of that province and other members established by the law controlling its organization and functions. The latter only have the right to speak.

Each provincial council will elect its president and board of directors from among its corregimiento representatives and will dictate its internal regulations. The provincial governor and the district mayors can attend the provincial council meetings with the right to speak.

New article. The following are the functions of the provincial council, without detriment to the other functions that the law may establish:

1. To serve as a consultative body for the provincial governor, the provincial authorities and the national authorities in general.
2. To request reports on provincial matters from national, provincial and municipal officials. In this regard, the provincial and municipal officials are obliged, when so requested by the provincial councils, to appear before them personally to give verbal reports.

National officials can present their reports in writing.

3. To prepare each year, for consideration by the executive branch, a plan for public works, investments and services in the province and to oversee its execution.

4. To supervise public services in the province.
5. To recommend to the Legislative Assembly the changes it deems suitable concerning the province's political divisions.
6. To request studies and programs of provincial interest from the national and provincial authorities.

New article. The provincial council will meet for regular sessions once a month, in the provincial capital or in some other place in the province determined by the council. It will meet for special sessions when convoked by its president or when requested by no less than 1/3 of its members.

ARTICLE 8. Under Title X, which deals with public finances, a new Chapter 2 has been incorporated which will be denominated general state budget. It includes the following new articles, adding to them, without amendment, the current Articles 235 and 236 and eliminating Article 237. Articles 239 and 240 will be included in Chapter 3, denominated office of the comptroller general of the republic. They will read as follows:

TITLE X. PUBLIC FINANCES

CHAPTER 2. (NEW) GENERAL STATE BUDGET

New article. The executive branch will be charged with preparing the draft general state budget, and the legislative branch will be charged with reviewing, modifying, rejecting or approving it.

New article. The budget will be prepared annually and will include all the investments, revenues and expenses of the public sector, which includes the autonomous and semiautonomous institutions and the state enterprises.

New article. The executive branch will consult the various state agencies and entities concerning the budget. The Legislative Assembly's budget commission will participate in these consultations.

New article. In the budget drafted by the executive branch, the expenditures will be balanced by the revenues. This budget must be submitted to the Legislative Assembly at least 3 months before the expiration of the budget of the current fiscal year, except for the special case of the article. [sentence as published]

New article. The Legislative Assembly will be empowered to eliminate or reduce the expenditure allocations specified in the draft budget, except for those destined to pay the service on the public debt, to fulfill the other contractual obligations of the state, and to finance the public investments previously authorized by the law.

The Legislative Assembly will not be empowered to increase any of the expenditures specified in the draft budget or to include a new expenditure

without the approval of the cabinet council; nor will it be empowered to increase the revenue estimate without the approval of the comptroller general.

If, as foreseen in this article, the revenue estimate is increased, or if any of the expenditure allocations is either eliminated or reduced, the Legislative Assembly will be empowered to use the amounts made available in this manner for other expenses and investments, if this is approved by the cabinet council.

New article. If the draft general state budget were not voted on by the first day of the corresponding fiscal year, the budget proposed by the executive branch will go into effect. The executive branch will adopt it through a cabinet council decision.

New article. If the Legislative Assembly rejects the draft general state budget, the budget for the previous fiscal period will be automatically extended until the new budget is approved. The allocations specified in the rejected draft budget to pay the service on the public debt, fulfill the other contractual obligations of the state and finance the public investments previously authorized by the law, will also be automatically approved.

New article. Any supplementary or extraordinary credit connected with the current budget will be requested by the executive branch and approved by the Legislative Assembly in the manner established by the law.

New article. The Legislative Assembly will not be empowered to issue laws abolishing or amending those laws that establish revenues included in the budget, without also establishing new substitute revenues and increasing those that already exist, after the office of the comptroller general of the republic has issued a report on their fiscal effectiveness.

Article 235. No public expense can be made unless authorized in accordance with the Constitution, nor can any credit be transferred for some purpose not specified in the budget.

Article 236. All the revenues and expenditures of the public treasury must be included and authorized in the budget. There will be no revenues based on taxes which the law has not established, nor will expenses not specified in the budget be paid.

THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 239. There will be an independent state office known as the office of the comptroller general of the republic. A public official known as comptroller general will be in charge of directing it. He will be assisted by a deputy comptroller. Both officials will be appointed for a period equal to that of the president of the republic. During this time neither can be suspended or dismissed except by the Supreme Court of Justice due to causes defined by the law. Both will be appointed to assume their duties on 1 January, after each regular presidential period has begun.

In order to be comptroller or deputy comptroller general of the republic, it is necessary to be Panamanian by birth, to have a university degree, to have turned 35, and to have never been sentenced by the judicial branch to be deprived of freedom for committing a crime against the public administration.

Article 240. In addition to those established by the law, the following are the functions of the office of the comptroller general of the republic:

1. To keep the nation's accounts, including those concerned with domestic and foreign debts.

2. To oversee, regulate and control all activities connected with the handling of public funds and other property, so this is done correctly and in accordance with the law.

The office of the comptroller will determine the cases in which it will exercise previous and subsequent control of such handling, as well as those cases in which it will exercise only the latter.

3. To examine, intervene or close the accounts of those public officials, entities or individuals who administer, manage or guard public funds or other property. Penal responsibility resides with the common courts.

4. To conduct inspections and investigations to determine the correctness or incorrectness of those operations that affect the public heritage and, in such cases, to make the respective denunciations.

5. To obtain from the appropriate public officials information about the fiscal activities of the public, national, provincial, municipal, autonomous or semiautonomous agencies of the state's enterprises.

6. To establish and promote the adoption of the measures needed to make effective the credits in favor of the public entities.

7. To demand the declaration of unconstitutionality or illegality, depending on the case, of the laws and other actions that violate the Constitution or the laws that affect the public heritage.

8. To establish the accounting methods for the public agencies mentioned in number 5 of this article.

9. To advise the Legislative Assembly and the executive branch on the financial state of the public administration and to express its opinion about the viability and advisability of issuing supplementary or special credits.

10. To direct and organize the national statistics.

11. To appoint the employees of its departments in accordance with this Constitution and the law.

12. To submit the annual report on its activities to the executive branch and to the Legislative Assembly.

13. To pass judgement on the agents and employees in charge of management activities whenever objections are made to these accounts for alleged irregularities.

ARTICLE 9. Article 263 under Title XII of the Constitution will read as follows:

TITLE XII. THE PUBLIC SERVANTS

CHAPTER 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Article 263. The president and vice president of the republic; the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and of the common and special courts; the ministers of state; the comptroller general of the republic; the president of the Legislative Assembly; the National Guard commander in chief; the chief and deputy chief of the National Guard general staff; the general staff members; the chiefs of military zones; the general directors, managers or chiefs of autonomous entities and the public employees and officials in charge of management in accordance with the fiscal code, must submit a sworn declaration on the state of their capital both at the beginning and at the end of their terms in office. THE NOTARY WILL HANDLE THIS FORMALITY FREE OF CHARGE.

This provision has immediate effects, without detriment to its regulation in accordance with the law.

ARTICLE 10. Article 269 under Title XIII of the Constitution will read as follows:

TITLE XIII. NATIONAL DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Article 269. The national defense and the public security are the concern of a professional institution called the National Guard, which will depend on the executive branch, the activities of which will be subject to the national Constitution and the law. In no case will the National Guard intervene in party politics, except to cast its vote.

ARTICLE 11. A new title, Title XIV, is added to the Constitution, under the denomination amendment of the Constitution. It includes the following new article:

TITLE XIV. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

New article. The initiative to propose constitutional amendments must come from the Legislative Assembly, the cabinet council or the Supreme Court of Justice. These amendments must be approved through one of the following procedures:

1. Through a legislative act approved in three debates by an absolute majority of the Legislative Assembly members. This act must be published in the official gazette and transmitted by the executive branch to the Assembly within the first 5 days of regular sessions following the elections for the renewal of the legislative branch, so that at this last legislative session it may once again be debated and approved without amendment, in a single debate, by an absolute majority of the members.

2. Through a legislative act approved in three debates by an absolute majority of the Legislative Assembly members in a legislative period, and equally approved in three debates by an absolute majority of the members of this Assembly in the legislative period immediately following, where the text approved in the previous legislative period may be amended. The legislative act approved in this manner must be published in the official gazette and subject to direct popular consultation through a referendum held on a date indicated by the Legislative Assembly, within a period of time that cannot be less than 3 months or exceed 6 months, counted from the moment that the legislative act was approved during the second legislative period.

The legislative act approved in accordance with any of the two previous procedures will go into effect the moment of its publication in the official gazette. This must be done by the executive branch, within a period of 10 working days following its ratification by the Legislative Assembly or within a period of 30 working days following its approval through a referendum, whichever the case, without its publication on some later date causing unconstitutionality.

ARTICLE 12. A new title, Title XV, is included in the Constitution under the name Final Provisions. Current articles 272 and 273, unamended, are incorporated into this title, proceeded by the following new article:

Final Provisions (before 273)

New article. The international treaties or agreements signed by the executive branch in connection with the locks canal, its adjacent zone and the protection of the canal, or for the construction of a sea-level canal or of a third set of locks, must be approved by the legislative branch. After their approval, they will be subject to a national referendum, which cannot be held earlier than 3 months after the legislative approval.

No amendment, reservation or understanding connected with these treaties or agreements will be valid unless it meets the requirements mentioned in the previous number.

This provision is similarly applicable to any contract between the executive branch and a private company or companies or one that belongs to another state or states, for the construction of a sea-level canal or of a third set of locks.

ARTICLE 13. The following temporary provisions are adopted:

1. As a rule, the provisions included in this constitutional amendment are to go into effect immediately after their promulgation, except in the following cases:

A. If some temporary rule indicates a different date for a provision to go into effect.

B. If the validity of specific titles or articles of the 1972 Constitution, which are to be replaced or amended, is to be temporarily maintained.

2. The president and vice presidents of the republic elected in 1984 will take office once the current presidential term expires.

3. The provisions of the 1972 Constitution regarding the executive branch, the National Assembly of corregimiento representatives, except for Article 140, the National Legislation Council and the municipal and provincial systems, will remain in effect until the current terms expire.

4. The provisions in Title V (legislative branch) and Title VIII (municipal and provincial systems) will go into effect upon being promulgated where it refers to the matter of the 1984 elections.

5. The provisions of the 1972 Constitution that refer to the judicial branch will remain in effect until the present constitutional amendments are promulgated.

6. The provisions of this constitutional amendment referent to Title X, which concerns the general state budget, will become effective in connection with the 1985 budget.

7. The current Electoral Tribunal magistrates will hold their posts until the term for which they were appointed expires.

8. The new term of the attorney general of the nation and the attorney of the administration will begin on 1 January 1985.

9. The new term in office of the comptroller general and the deputy comptroller general will begin on 1 January 1985.

10. After consulting with the registered political parties, the Electoral Tribunal will submit to the National Legislation Council, within 30 days counted from the moment this temporary article becomes valid, a bill regulating

the 1984 elections for president and vice presidents of the republic, legislators, district mayors, corregimiento representatives and members of the municipal councils.

If within a period of 60 days, counted from the moment that the bill mentioned above is presented, the electoral law has not been issued, the 1984 elections will be ruled by an electoral regulation issued by the Electoral Tribunal after consulting with the legally constituted political parties. In this case, the Electoral Tribunal will issue the decrees required to execute the electoral regulations, which will include the regulatory provisions that the Constitution attributes to the law.

11. Until the Indian territories of the republic are created and demarcated, the law will create an electoral district formed by the corregimientos in the eastern part of Chiriqui Province, which are mostly inhabited by the Guaymi people, where they will elect a principal legislator and his alternates as Legislative Assembly members.

12. The appointment of the current judges of the Supreme Court of Justice is recognized. In order to guarantee the successive appointment of judges for terms expiring on different dates, the current judges will remain in their posts until the requirements for retirement are met or until replaced through a new appointment.

Starting on 1 December 1985, two new principal judges and alternate judges will be appointed to take office on 1 January 1986, replacing those who are eligible to retire. If more than two judges were entitled to this, the two oldest ones will be replaced.

Starting on 1 December 1987, two new principal judges and alternate judges will be appointed to take office on 1 January 1988, replacing the two judges who, in December 1987 met the requirements to retire or came closest to meeting them in accordance with the laws in effect.

Starting on 1 December 1989 two new alternate judges will be appointed to take office on 1 January 1990, replacing the two judges that in December 1989 met the requirements to retire or came closest to meeting them in accordance with the laws in effect.

Starting on 1 December 1991, two new principal judges and alternate judges will be appointed to take office on 1 January 1992, replacing the two magistrates who in December 1991 met the requirements to retire or came closest to meeting them in accordance with the laws in effect.

Starting on 1 December 1992, an appointment in office will be made, beginning on 1 January 1983, to replace the judge whose term expires in late 1992.
[sentence as published]

In the event that any of the current judges is not entitled to retire in accordance with the laws in effect, and he is provided with a replacement

before his term in office expires, his right to continue receiving his emoluments and expense account until the end of his term in office is recognized under this provision.

13. The Electoral Tribunal will issue the regulatory decree registering the electoral district divisions that will be used as the basis for the 1984 legislative election, in accordance with the respective provisions of this constitutional amendment, including those which it attributes to the law.

14. In view of the fact that these constitutional amendments modify and eliminate articles of the 1972 Constitution and introduce new articles, while many other articles are to remain unmodified, if these constitutional amendments are approved, the executive branch is empowered to systematically organize both, the unamended provisions and the new provisions into a single text, with the articles numbered in sequence, beginning with number one, and due mention of the articles set in order. The executive branch is also empowered to publish this single text of the Constitution in the official gazette within 20 days, counted from the date on which the Electoral Tribunal announces the result of the referendum. This single text will be published as an official bulletin to be widely distributed.

[Dated] Panama, 27 March 1983.

CSO: 3248/651

CHRONOLOGY OF SENDERISTA ACTIVITIES IN AYACUCHO

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Mar 83 Perspective Supplement pp 4-5

[Article by Fidel Mendez Tello: "Ayacucho: Chronology of Terror"]

[Text] Because of the extremist group Sendero Luminoso, the Quechua voice of Ayacucho is on the verge of death and destruction today.

The members of the ironically self-named Sendero Luminoso introduced themselves with their "works" and "message": blowing up towers and bridges; the indiscriminate killing of peasants, police and political authorities; and attacks on police posts this past year.

This group is now retreating. Actually, it is being defeated by the forces of order and democracy. However, its actions must not be forgotten; they provide many lessons. Therefore, PERSPECTIVA publishes the following chronology.

January

The most important event in this first month of 1982 occurred on 5 January when an urban bus in the city of Ayacucho was taken by armed members. GC [Civil Guard] Eliseo Castaneda who was guarding it was wounded.

To find the perpetrators, the police raided the dormitory of the San Cristobal National University in Huamanga.

This month also GR [Republican Guard] Adrian Ramos Flores was killed by two bullets and the Second Correctional Court of Ayacucho sentenced eight terrorists to prison under Decree Law No. 046.

February

On 25 February, there was an attempt on the "El Polvorin" munitions depot of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications 5 kilometers from Ayacucho. Terrorists Joel Edgard Soria Suarez and Joaquin Sosa Urbano died.

A few days later, there was the first attempted mass escape from the Ayacucho CRAS [expansion unknown]. The following prisoners died: Miguel Higa Yamasaki, Primitivo Canales Vargas, William Esquivel Caycho and Rogelio Quispe. Amilcar Urbay Ovalle and Eucadio Najarro were wounded.

March

The largest and best planned terrorist action took place between 11 pm on 2 March and the early morning of 3 March--an attack on the Ayacucho CRAS. Some 247 prisoners--terrorists and people arrested for other crimes--managed to escape.

It is estimated that about 150 armed members participated in this action. They distributed themselves strategically throughout the city and blocked any aid to the GR trying to defend the CRAS. GR Florencio Arones Guillen and GR Jose Rea Conde died in this action.

At least 10 of the attackers died and 9 members of the police force were wounded.

Senderista leaders like Edith Lagos S. and Carlota Tello Cuti managed to escape at this time.

In subsequent days, there were a number of attacks against the police posts of Quinua, Minas Canarias, San Miguel, Huancapi and Vilcas Huaman, wounding seven GC.

April

A state of emergency and a curfew were decreed in several provinces in the department. The rebel groups began a series of assassinations, killing Grimaldo Castillo Sulca (a postal worker), Ancadio Pillaca Ochoa and businessman Leoncio Kajatt.

On 6 April, they attacked a munitions depot in Huanta and took war materiel, leaving behind two wounded GR.

May

There were several dynamite attacks in the city, wounding one PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] and one civilian. There was looting in Tambo.

On 27 May, armed groups killed the former governor, Cecilio Gutierrez Ochoa, and a peasant, Julian Tala Ayala, in Concepcion (Chacari annex).

June

The Senderistas raided towns in the interior, distributing propaganda inciting armed struggle. They robbed a food truck and distributed the food among the inhabitants.

Some 34 alleged terrorists were taken to Lima.

July

On 11 July, Mayor Juan Inca Alljaco and businessman Demetrio Ipurre were murdered in a raid on Hualla (Victor Fajardo).

On 13 July, in a raid on Huancarylla, they murdered the secretary general of Popular Action, Hermenegildo Retamozo Cordero.

On 16 July, they executed Governor Zenon Palomino in Cayara (V. Fajardo). On 19 July, they killed the governor of Ocacomarca, Antonio Unca Poma.

There were more than 40 dynamite attacks this month, mainly against the District Council of San Juan Bautista and the GC post in Vilcas Huaman.

August

On 3 August, there was a raid on the Allpachaka estate of the University of Huamanga; they killed all the good cattle. Damages totaled more than 500 million soles.

On the same day, they murdered Juan Pablo Paucar Melgar. On 19 August, a health worker, Roberto Zea Medina, was killed in San Jose de Ticllas.

On 22 August, the GC post in Vilcas Huaman was attacked; 6 policemen were killed and 14 wounded.

September

There were dynamite attacks at different places and GR Jose Luis Saldana was murdered in Huanta.

On 10 September, the terrorists raided the Matara farm and killed its owners, brothers Filomeno and Fortunato Nieto Cisneros. Juan Gonzales Lujan, professor Romulo Cordova Huaman, GC Eduardo Camargo Cieza and student Julio Calderon Rivera (17) were also killed in September.

October

On 4 October, the GC post in Mayocc was attacked and several GC were killed: Alberto Tinoco Sotelo, Rolando Tineo Arrieta, Julio Ramirez Romero and Victor Ricardo Carranza Cruzado.

On 7 October, a youth, Jorge Quevedo Caceda, was killed and a child, Jhonny Caceda, was wounded and died 2 days later.

November

They killed Juan Cisneros, director of the Agrarian League, in Cangallo on an unknown date.

On 4 November, Liz Jenny Saenz Roman (17) who was linked to terrorist acts was murdered in the doorway of her home by unknown persons.

On 5 November, professor Aurea Ortega Quispe was killed in Llusita (Huancaraylla). GC Enrique Pilco Calderon was killed in an ambush in Acos Vinchos.

On 7 November, they executed Lt Governor Hilario Huaman Sulca in Allccamencca (Victor Fajardo).

During this month, the Senderistas also killed Abraham Aquino, Paulino Chuchon Peralta, Juan Albarriera Tenorio, Vicente de la Cruz, Romulo Lama Rivas, Juan Cirilo Gomez Ayala, Maria Molina Huallanca, Agalino Yantajaya Quispe, Eleodoro Chuchon Prada, Cipriano Palomino and his son Filomeno. There were more than 20 murders this month.

December

On 6 December, the secretary of the Council, Artemio Palomino, was executed in Huamanguilla and on 9 December they blew up the Pampas bridge.

Walter Mamerto Sulca, GC Miguel Zambrano and former GC Julian Chaparro Melgarejo were also killed. The warehouses of the Nicolini firm were burned, causing damages of more than 100 million soles.

1983

January

On the first day of the year, the public was upset by the savage murder of the lieutenant mayor of Ayacucho, engineer Victor Tapahuasco, on the Paraccay estate after being tried by a "people's court." The mayor of the district of Marcas was shaved bald and whipped by the Senderistas.

On 2 January, a discharged soldier was murdered in front of his family.

On 7 January, the terrorists murdered a GR corporal and took over the radio station "The Voice of Huamanga," broadcasting a call for a 24-hour general strike which the terrified people heeded.

On 8 January, a group of terrorists tried to blow up a microwave antenna but were repelled by the police. One GR died. Another group attacked the control watchtower on Carretera de los Libertadores. There were a series of attacks in Ayacucho.

On 17 January, 17 terrorists who tried to blow up the Pampas bridge were killed.

On 19 January, a husband and wife were murdered in Huancapi after a "people's court" was held.

The peasants in the region began to react against the terrorists. On 22 January, seven Senderistas were killed by the people of Huaychao. The people turned over the weapons captured from the extremists.

On 23 January, the people of Uchuraccay repelled an attack by 30 Senderistas, killing 5 of them.

A group of eight journalists were murdered by the people of Uchuraccay on 26 January; they were confused for terrorists.

On 27 January, 17 terrorists were killed when they tried to blow up a bridge in Quishuara.

On 29 January, the terrorists tried to take a police post in Cangallo; nine were killed by the forces of order. Another seven were killed at La Mar.

February

On 2 February, a policeman was murdered at the exit of the theater in Andahuaylas.

Sgt Antonio Sandy Morey was murdered by a group of Senderistas in the city of Ayacucho on 9 February.

On 12 February, four terrorists were killed when they fought the forces of order in Asmapampa.

In an attempt to terrorize the peasants, the extremists attacked and burned two Ayacucho buildings on 14 February. They killed two peasants.

On 19 February, a confrontation between peasants and terrorists in the Carhuaran zone left 30 dead.

Three terrorists were killed on 25 February when they tried to attack the Huancapi police post. Another 54 terrorists died in two areas of Victor Fajardo Province.

On 26 February, the body of a youth, Felix Diaz, showed up on the shore of the Laguna River. He had been murdered by the terrorists.

The actions against Sendero Luminoso continue. The combined forces of the army and the police are reestablishing order in the war-torn Ayacucho area. With the determined support of the Ayacucho people, they are dealing harsh blows against the subversive movement. The General Office of Statistics also reported that actions by Sendero Luminoso will reduce the annual production of the Ayacucho area by 70 billion soles. Therefore, all Peruvians hope that this movement will be destroyed as quickly as possible.

7717

CSO: 3348/277

BRIEFS

TERRORISTS KILLED; HOSPITAL DISCOVERED--Cuzco, 9 Mar--There was a confrontation yesterday in the Salcapaya area between terrorists fleeing from Ayacucho and members of the "sinchis" and the Army. Four subversives were killed, according to reports in this city today. It was also announced that the forces of order discovered a clandestine hospital in Sanyoc, Vilcabamba. The authorities reported that the hospital even had an operating room with modern equipment. The encounter in Salcapaya, Vilcabamba, near the border zone between Apurimac and Ayacucho had been expected at any time since the Civil Guard and the Army are after a column of terrorists who are fleeing from Ayacucho with the objective of penetrating Cuzco and Madre de Dios. In this last department, in the Espiritu Pampa zone, a group of 25 to 30 rebels led by a woman--presumably "Comrade Carla"--has been sighted. Helicopters with military personnel have been dispatched to that zone. Military sources here hoped that the forces of order could block the column of rebels, about 150 men, at any moment. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 1] 7717

CSO: 3348/277

REPORT ON PEOPLE'S ACTION MOVEMENT 27 FEB CONVENTION

Simmonds Address

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 5 Mar 83 p 12

[Excerpts from the feature address by the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, president of the co-ruling People's Action Movement, at P.A.M. International Headquarters, Basseterre, 18th annual convention, 27 Feb 83]

[Text] Brothers and Sisters, Fellow Citizens, All -

As I stand here before you to review the highlights of the past year and to signal the way ahead, let us give thanks to Almighty God whose protecting hand has brought the ship of State safely to the end of our third year in the service of the Government and people of our lovely country. At the end of three years of solid achievements and steady progress, we have entered upon a momentous period in our history.

Dawn of a New Day

During this fourth year in Office, in the month of September, the long-awaited INDEPENDENCE of our country will become a reality. Today I want us to focus our attention on that not-too-distant day when the aspiration that is the birthright of every citizen in this country, to be FREE AT LAST as part of a Sovereign Independent Nation, will signal us to the dawn of a new day.

The Year 1982

Our achievements during the past twelve months, and indeed throughout our term of office attest to the quality of our leadership, and our ability to grapple successfully with the challenges that we have faced. The year 1982 was a difficult and challenging year, not only for us, but for the world in general. The world found itself in the icy grip of a recession which still persists today. Entire countries full of natural resources, like Mexico, found themselves facing total bankruptcy, with debts running into billions of dollars. Large corporations in the world's richest nation like the Chrysler Corporation stood on the brink of total collapse, snatched from disaster by the U.S. Government. Employees of Ford Motor Co. and Eastern Airlines accepted wage reductions rather than face total unemployment. Throughout the world the ranks of the unemployed swelled not by the thousands, but by the millions.

The bottom virtually fell out of cane sugar. Sugar, which from time immemorial has been our staple life-line, and on which we were left utterly dependent by our short-sighted predecessors in office. Every cane sugar industry in the world has had monumental losses, and we could not expect to escape. However, by a combination of courageous, yet prudent and progressive management, we were able to reduce our losses from 18! million dollars in 1981 to 8! million dollars in 1982. What this has meant in real terms, has been the preservation of the jobs of all those people who work in the Sugar Industry. The workers of this country have recognised that it is a tremendous achievement for the Government to be able to provide them with jobs even in these difficult times, and they have shunned the purveyors of mischief and their call for divisiveness and disruption and have heeded the clarion call of their genuine leaders to get the 1983 crop moving. The 1983 crop is proceeding smoothly and efficiently.

In spite of the gloom which 1982 brought on the entire world, I am happy to report that your Government was still able to make 1982 an eventful*year in which significant progress was made in the unfolding of our programme of development for the country.

(*The Premier at this stage gave a month by month review of forty-one (41) significant events during 1982 to enthusiastic applause as each event was mentioned).

Challenge of Independence

Fellow Citizens, no one is more aware than my Cabinet colleagues and myself of the seriousness of the challenge that full and Sovereign INDEPENDENCE will bring to our islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. It is an event of great significance, which we have approached soberly, methodically and according to a carefully considered plan. We have put forward our proposals under the glare of the most searching scrutiny, we have allowed amendments to be made to them, where these were proper, and represented a measure of consensus. We have reflected on and yielded to suggestions, including some by the Opposition, who at the last minute, in the course of the Constitutional Conference at Lancaster House, made occasional efforts at being constructive, after their initial rejectionist attitude. We set up mechanisms for assessing the will of the people, and we have been flexible and open in our reception of ideas. Our entire approach has been consistent and in harmony with the guidelines laid down in our Manifesto, and we have spared no effort in designing the formulation to reflect the aspirations of the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. But my Government does not hold and has never held the view that the bringing into force of a new Constitutional document, however appropriate it may be, is the be-all and end-all of INDEPENDENCE. It will require discipline, self-reliance, productivity, hard work and maturity to transform the concept of INDEPENDENCE into a meaningful and actual reality.

Better Quality of Life

I do not intend in this forum to analyse development in Nevis, except to say that the hostility which was present when we took office in 1980 has been

removed, and the people of Nevis have recognised that the Government has made remarkable progress in improving their situation with respect to infrastructure - e.g. roads, water, electricity and telephones. Our goal of building a better quality of life for all of us can only be achieved by a unified effort by all sectors of the community. The role of the private sector has been much in focus these days. However, let me stress that the private sector must include not only the large companies or large traders or industrialists, it must also include the small farmer, the fisherman, the handicrafter, and we already provided assistance to these categories of workers.

Agricultural Lands

Our policy of diversification is geared to help the small farmer. For this to be meaningful, however, the farmer must have land and security of holding. This process is being frustrated by the still unsettled issue of the former sugar estate lands. Unfortunately, some people are being deliberately misled into believing that the Government is merely seeking for money to give to people who have. The fact is that the Government is seeking to correct an illegal and unconstitutional mess which was created by the Labour Party and which was NOT of our doing. No less a prestigious source than the World Bank report says... "The Government should resolve the legal bottlenecks preventing land distribution and sale to small farmers". The report went on to say... "The legal insecurity prevents most investment in farm development because credit is difficult to obtain without a mortgage guarantee".

In addition, so many thousands of you who live on village lands know that you are suffering because you are unable to get title until this matter is settled. The result is, you cannot get a loan to repair, renovate or rebuild your homes because you have nothing to show the bank. So this problem touches you at the very village level, and Government is continuing its efforts to resolve it.

St. Kitts/Nevis Development Bank

It would give a totally erroneous impression, however, if the issue of loans were left at this point. In fact, we addressed this issue positively, and directly with the creation of the St. Kitts-Nevis Development Bank. Of course, we had to clean up the mess of the D.F.C. first - which we did. Up to January 1983 this year, the Development Bank has approved loans to numerous persons for repairs, extensions, building, home purchase and renovation totaling \$1,236,300 and of this the bank has actually given out \$1,106,897.89.

Royal St. Kitts Hotel

I must make brief mention of an unfortunate setback to our tourism development. I refer to the loss of the main building of the Royal St. Kitts Hotel by fire. It is also a loss to the workers who work there. However, all can be assured that as we have overcome adversity in the past, we will address this problem with the vision, vigour and urgency that it demands.

Message of Unity

As we look towards the future as an Independent Nation, we can do so with confidence, because you have seen that in times of adversity, your Government has been able to keep the Ship of State moving steadily forward on its course of progress. Performance in difficult times is the true test of Will, Courage, Ability, Initiative and Commitment. I need hardly remind you that we are here to serve you and that without your prayers and your active support we can do little.

Today I charge you with a mission to go into every nook and cranny in this country, and explain and support the policies and programmes of your government, for they are your policies and your programmes. Above all, spread the message of Unity, not necessarily uniformity, but a Unity which strives to promote the good of the Nation. A Unity which recognises that we develop the people and the country so that there will be a better quality of life for ALL of us.

Other Remarks

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 5 Mar 83 p 11

[Text] The People's Action Movement (PAM) scored another solid victory last Sunday 27th February, when they successfully held their 18th Annual Convention at PAM International Headquarters in Basseterre, St. Kitts. The afternoon was very warm with temperature around the 90° mark and the wide open air arena at PAM City resembled a sea of eager, smiling, beautiful faces as members of the People's Action Movement, dressed to suit this very meaningful occasion, cheered their political heroes who are also National Leaders, not only in words but in deeds.

Dr. William Herbert chaired this Convention and in his usually vigorous and confident style, kept the Convention lively and interesting from beginning to end. At precisely 3 p.m., Chairman Herbert called on the Premier of St. Kitts/Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, President of the People's Action Movement to deliver the Feature Address. President Simmonds did so, as if the entire world was tuned in at PAM Headquarters to hear the likeable and very talented Head of State. He was egged on by the jubilant cheers of his large and appreciative audience, and at the end of his powerful address, he was given a standing ovation. (See Excerpts from the Address on Page 12).

Honourable Richard Caines 4th Vice President of the People's Action Movement, in his address, called on all members to do some serious soul-searching, renew their commitment to the Party and to work hard to improve their Party's strength. "Elections are only two short years away", Mr. Caines reminded them adding that after INDEPENDENCE in September, the Party must ready itself to do battle to win the 1985 Elections.

Honourable Sydney Morris, 2nd Vice President, warned members not to allow apathy to creep into their thinking and to discount the much vaunted talks that "Labour done dead already!" "Our Party needs to be ten times stronger in

1985 than we were in 1980" he counselled, and urged members to make sure that their names and those of people they know, are registered to vote. Voters' Registration comes to an end on 14th March and Registration Cards can be obtained from Party Leaders and Convention a man called "YANKEE", as one of many persons in this country who had lost his sight but can see again, thanks to the "EYE UNIT" and the Eye Specialists his Government brought to St. Kitts/Nevis.

First Vice President, the Honourable Michael O. Powell, chided Kittitians for having short memory. In re-capping some of the events of last year, he dealt with the blood-chilling, blood-spilling foul deed at Government Headquarters on 2nd February 1982, when a young dread-locked man, armed with a machete, entered Government Headquarters looking for Premier Simmonds to behead him. Mr. Powell argued that the incident was not a accident and that he believed it was part of a plot cooked up by those who have publicly threatened to utterly, totally and completely destroy Dr. Kennedy Simmonds. The 1st Vice President also renewed Government's pledge to maintain Law and Order in this country and cited some examples that proved that the PAM/NRP Government means business. He also gave an updated report on how the 1983 Sugar Crop was progressing, to repeated cheers for the Sugar Workers who have shown good faith in the Government and their country.

Dr. William Herbert, 3rd Vice President, held up a Copy of a Draft Constitution as he explained what a Draft Constitution is all about. "The WHITE PAPER was only a set of proposals", he repeated, "but the Draft Constitution deals with everything. My duty is to ensure that St. Kitts/Nevis gets constitutional advancement and the type that suits our needs and history. PAM/NRP Government worked night and day to try to work out what will be satisfying to all the people of St. Kitts/Nevis. September is a month to remember and this our 18th Annual Convention is the last one as a people who are not FREE", Dr. Herbert remarked.

The members of the People's Action Movement were given the opportunity to put forward new proposals, ask questions and elect the Executive Officers for 1983/84. They showed their complete confidence and faith in the present office by re-electing all of them in the same manner as last year.

CSO: 3298/448

TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH SIMMONDS ON THIRD YEAR IN OFFICE

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 19, 26 Feb, 5 Mar 83

[Interview with the Premier the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds conducted by Roy Jones, managing editor of THE DEMOCRAT newspaper, 17 Feb 83]

[19 Feb 83 p 12]

[Text] ROY: Mr. Premier, Saturday February 19th will make 3 years since you became Premier of St. Kitts/Nevis, a position your political rivals predicted you could not hold for as long as 3 months. How do you view your job?

PREMIER: I view this position as a tremendous challenge because when we were in Opposition we felt that the greatest deterrent to development in this country was our excessive dependence on Sugar for our development and we were determined that once we became the Government we would begin the process of development and really get the country moving in spite of the difficult economic situation our country and the world at large are facing. The fact that we have gone beyond the 3 months predicted by my rivals, is ample testimony to the fact that the people of this State have recognised that the country has been moving forward and that we have been coming to grips with the critical problems that have beset us in the past.

ROY: What achievements have given you the most satisfaction during your 3 years in Office?

PREMIER: Of course it is very difficult to single out any particular achievement because our approach has obviously been a multifaceted one bent as we are on the diversification of the economy. But if I had to single out anything, I would say - it's the fact that we have been able to make people feel the impact of our development programme. So much of what we have done has filtered down to the ordinary person and has brought benefits to the individual. There has been a marked improvement in the living standards of our people and as our slogan said, "Better has come for many people".

I am pleased with our emphasis on the development of people starting from the very early stages. For example, our Day Care Centre Programme is an important programme. Not only does it lay the foundation for the education of our youth for their future development, it also provides the opportunity to young

energetic mothers to be able to work and earn a living to help their families. Our emphasis too has been on providing school facilities for education. There have been for example, a new school in St. Pauls - a new Sandy Point Primary School which is almost completed and a vast amount of renovation and additions to other schools like Saddlers, Cayon, New Town, Dieppe Bay, Hall Way Tree, St. Peters, Charlestown, Gingerland, Prospect, St. James and of course the addition of the 6th Form College in Nevis. My Government has also placed tremendous emphasis on training. Training at all levels - Training in public service. and we have gone further, in that, in some of our management training programmes we have involved the private sector because we realise that our human resources are in fact the most important resources we have and if we are going to make use of all our resources, it is essential that we develop our human resources to the fullest.

During 1982, there were some 39 different courses. There were courses in Agriculture which is the back-bone of our economy, courses in Management Studies, courses in Health Education, land surveying, vegetable crop production and so on. We had the situation where we sent 17 youths off to Venezuela for courses in various aspects of Agriculture. All of this serves to develop people so that they in turn can play a significant role in the development of the country. Our programmes in housing also represent an important part of our people development programme. In addition to the Low Income Housing Projects for New Town, Conaree, Cayon, Challengers, Sandy Point and Old Road, the Development Bank has played a significant role in helping people either to build, renovate, repair or extend homes. There were some 37 applications for House Loans of one kind or another dealt with and approved by the Development Bank in January of this year totalling some \$1,236,000. Out of that, \$1,106,000 has already been dispersed. And I regard the development of the people of this country as a significant aspect.

The fact too, that we increased the level of wages significantly since coming into Office, coupled with the abolition of Personal Income Tax, has provided people with more money to save and more to spend. The level of savings in local banks increased tremendously during our Term of Office. In the 18 months preceding our coming into Office, the increase in local savings was \$15 million. In the first 18 months of our Term of Office, the increase in local savings rose to \$38 million. This is more than double what it was. So you see, although people spent more money during that period, they also saved more than double what they used to save. And I think that the development of local savings is an essential aspect of our economy.

ROY: Mr. Premier, have there been any disappointments?

PREMIER: Yes! There have been. But let me say that I regard the disappointments as of a temporary nature because, we are still engaged in the process of Government and the disappointments can be corrected during the course of our tenure. Most of the disappointments are in fact related to the frustration in dealing with International Agencies and other Governments who will give assistance. For example - I am particularly disappointed that the South East Peninsular Road has not in fact come on stream as yet, because, this is an important aspect of our diversification programme into tourism. We have, thanks

to the assistance of the Canadian Government, cleared the road just before Christmas, so that it is now passable by Land Rover and that is proof that the peninsula can become assessable.

That project is a very significant one as it will provide employment in addition to opening up that most vital area of the country. Then of course, another disappointment is the fact that we have not been able yet, to settle the issue of the Agricultural Lands. Many people do not really appreciate the weighty significance of this issue. It is a very serious restraint against our development. Agriculture has to be the back-bone of our economy and it is restrictive of our Agricultural Diversification Programme. My Government wants to create a new Small Farmers concept in Agriculture in this country and it is difficult to do that unless one can give tenure of land to prospective farmers. We cannot give tenure of land until this matter is resolved. Then we have the situation where many people reside on village lands and they are unable to get their deeds and titles because of the non-settlement resolution of this issue. It is almost impossible for these people therefore, to get loans or to use deeds or title documents as collateral for loans from local banks - so that, they are directly affected by the non-settlement of this issue of the Agricultural Lands. I regard this too as a temporary setback. Another source of disappointment has been the tremendous fall in the price of Sugar on the World Market which naturally has adversely affected us because we are a sugar producing country.

[26 Feb 83 p 7]

[Text] ROY: What has been your most difficult task to date?

PREMIER: I would think it's the curbing of my impatience with the practices of bureaucracy in the government structure and particularly in dealing with International Agencies. I have a concept of what I would like to do for this country and the direction I would like to see the country moving. Obviously, we do not have all the resources to do all the things we would like. We feel hamstrung and frustrated at times, when the normal government processes and the processes of dealing with International Agencies, appear to be delaying on the process of development.

ROY: Do threats from the Labour Opposition Leaders to destroy you and other threats from them to remove your Government without elections worry you, Mr. Premier?

PREMIER: These threats are of no great personal concern for me but they certainly do a great disservice to our country and to the image of our country. We have always had a good reputation for stability and of course the stability of any country is essential for its long term development. We have a tradition of democracy of which we are proud - a tradition of democracy which I know we respected for fifteen years as an Opposition. And this respect for this tradition, contributed to the stability of the country. So those who would talk now about removing the Government without elections are doing a great disservice to the country and I think in some cases, these threats are deliberate, to impede the progress and development of the country.

ROY: As Head of Government for St. Kitts/Nevis, how has this affected your personal and family life?

PREMIER: Obviously, there have been some changes - there must be changes when one becomes so much in the public's eye. I think that the nature of my profession before I went into politics did place me also, in the public's eye and helped the situation somewhat. But I must hasten to add that, my family has been very supportive and has been a very great source of strength and encouragement to me personally and their support has given me a lot of impetus to carry on the struggle.

ROY: Could you comment briefly on the economic situation in this country?

PREMIER: Yes! I think that it is important for people to realise that as a small country - with an open economy - we are subjected to the buffeting of happenings in the outside world. When a recession hits North America and Europe we feel it. When the price of Sugar drops, it creates a crisis in our Sugar Industry. In the United States when the interest rate sky-rockets it affects our development adversely. So that, it is essential for us to understand that we are in many cases, at the mercy of the outside world. To counter this, we have got to be careful not to put all our eggs in one basket and the economic situation of our country today has resulted in fact from policies which put all our eggs into the Sugar basket in the past.

I am encouraged that we can turn the economic tide around given the natural resources of our land which is fertile and which is essential to our agricultural diversification programme. Then I think that we have made significant strides in Tourism. I don't think there is anyone who can doubt that. Even our detractors will have to accept and grant that we have made meaningful strides in Tourism, which will go a long way towards the betterment of our economic situation. The fact that we have improved our communications to the metropolitan cities of North America with direct Jet Services - that the Frigate Bay Project is now moving and the level of construction there is significant with new hotels and condominiums going up and that other hotels away from Frigate Bay have been expanding their operations - that we have had a big increase in Cruise Ship arrivals including CUNARD LINES prestigious and luxurious QE2 coming here. All this have given a boost to our economic situation.

ROY: What do you think is the response of the Sugar Workers to the financial crisis being experienced in this State?

PREMIER: I am tremendously gratified by the response of the Sugar Workers. I think that by far the vast majority have shown a terrific amount of maturity and understanding of the position. If we were to break it down, the turn out of Sugar Factory Workers has been excellent. A part from a small area of the northern section of the country, the turn out of sugar workers has been good to excellent and certainly am extremely pleased. This week for example, worker turn-out has been outstanding and the indication is that, it will continue.

ROY: How does St. Kitts/Nevis represent a fruitful field for Overseas Investors?

PREMIER: One of the most important ingredients that Overseas Investors look for and which we have in abundance is the Stability of the Country. We also possess an intelligent and readily and easily trained work-force. We also allow incentives for these Overseas Investors and also for local investors. We have placed great emphasis too, on providing the necessary infrastructure for investment in this country - the Electrical Power, International Communication, Roads and Water. We have also started an Industrial Site in Nevis, and have had approval for our Projects to increase the Electrical Power in the State for private, commercial and industrial use. So that, I think this country is an ideal place for Overseas Investors.

Not only that but we have been out there actively trying to attract Overseas Investors here. We have published two very attractive brochures recently, aimed at telling potential Overseas Investors what are the benefits of investing in St. Kitts and Nevis. We also have a Project Development Officer provided with assistance from U.S.A.I.D. who is assisting us in identifying potential Investors and an Industrial Development Specialist attached to the Development Bank here, who assists in the screening of investors and in providing Investors with information and studies that are relevant to their types of Investments. Then of course, there is the Development Bank itself, which we have upgraded and strengthened and which is now playing a significant part in the industrial development of the country. So that, all this activity in industrial development and promotion that we have been doing, have all served to encourage Overseas Investors.

[5 Mar 83 p 6]

[Text] ROY: How are Governments plans for Independence in September going?

PREMIER: We have had just a few early meetings but our plans are going very well. We have tried to make our Independence Committees as broad as possible so as to incorporate as many ideas from the Community as are attainable and those plans are on schedule and going well. We expect reasonably shortly - within the next couple of months - to have the debate on the final draft of the Constitution and that too, is on our projected schedule for Independence in September.

ROY: Why isn't the exact date for Independence in September named as yet?

PREMIER: Because we have to co-ordinate with the British Government. There is usually a Royal visitor to hand over the Constitutional Instruments so that the actual date has to be co-ordinated with Her Majesty's Government. We are in the process of working this out and as soon as we have reached agreement on that, we will publish the exact date.

ROY: Mr. Premier, Do you have a preference for a particular date?

PREMIER: I would not like to express any particular preference at this time. As I have said, we have been coordinating with the British Government and until we are both in a position to indicate the date I do not think it will be appropriate for me to specify any particular preference.

ROY: How high on your list of priorities is the Maintainance of Law and Order?

PREMIER: Very high indeed! I think you will recall when I was speaking about our development in general and the attracting of Overseas Investment, I mentioned that STABILITY was an important aspect of the underpinning of our development. And, the MAINTAINANCE OF LAW AND ORDER is perhaps the most important aspect of STABILITY. So that, we are determined to maintain LAW and ORDER in the country - And we are determined to preserve and protect the institution of DEMOCRACY because, this is very important to every individual. We would want to sensitize every individual to the importance of maintaining Law and Order - to the importance of our preservation of our system of Justice - to the importance of the preservation of our system of Democracy. People must at all times feel that they have freedom to choose, freedom to decide and the political hierarchy must always be responsive to the will of the people.

ROY: Are you still prepared to compare the achievements of your first five (5) years in Office with that of Labour's thirty (30) years?

PREMIER: Oh! Without a doubt! Without a doubt! You see, many of our economic difficulties today, can be attributed directly to the over-dependence on Sugar - on that one Crop. I am not trying to suggest that it is only to the past thirty years that this has been the case. There have been legacies from before. But the fact is, that over the past 30 years, we have had as a people within our own hands, the tools of our own destiny and we still remained during this period, a one crop economy. During this first Term of Office, we have made a significant stride in diversifying away from that and because of the fact that we are coming to grips with the core and root cause of the problems, I have not doubt that at the end of our first Term in Office, our accomplishment would stand favourable in comparison with that in the previous 30 years.

ROY: How would you describe the personal relationship between you and the Opposition Leaders like Lee Moore and Fitzroy Bryant?

PREMIER: I don't know about their personal relations with me. But as far as my personal relationship with them goes, I certainly bear no animosities because of the fact that we are on the opposite sides of the political fence. I respect them as members of the Opposition and I accept that there can be differences without these differences affecting personal relationships.

ROY: On a scale of 0 - 10 how would you rate the performance of your Government over the past 3 years?

PREMIER: I think I'll hesitate to do the rating. I would prefer to leave that for the public to do. For it does not really matter in the long run what I think of the performance. It's really what the people think of it.

ROY: If there were to be an election tomorrow Mr. Premier, how do you think it will go?

PREMIER: Let me say to begin with that there will not be an election tomorrow. But if there were, I would be quite prepared to stand on the record of my Government and I feel quite certain that we would come out "VICTORIOUS".

ROY: Do you have any comment to make Mr. Prime Minister Designate, that has not been covered in previous questions?

PREMIER: I would like to make the point that as we stand on the threshold of Nationhood, it is essential that the people of this country recognise that the responsibility of looking after our own affairs is not only a Government responsibility. It is a responsibility which has to be carried on the shoulders of each and everyone of us. The process of developing the country in the future as an Independent Nation must be a co-operative effort between public sector and private sector, between worker and employer, between investor and consumer and above all, it must be in a co-operative effort which recognises that the ultimate purpose of all our endeavours is to improve the quality of life for every man, woman and child in this country. This is what it must come down to. And there are so many parameters of quality of life. They are not all monetary - they are social, educational, physical, psychological - they cover the opportunities for employment, for employment that is meaningful and can provide that quality of living which we are all striving for. And I believe Roy, that the real task of Government is to somehow be able to galvanize the efforts of the various segments of our Society into a unified whole, so that we can really bring all our resources, human and physical to bear on the problems of development.

ROY: Thanks Mr. Premier. I congratulate you and your Government for the approach you are taking towards the development of our country and I wish continued success, God's blessings and many more years in office.

CSO: 3298/448

CANE CUTTER TURNOUT REVEALS FAILURE OF LABOUR PARTY

Labour's Miscalculation

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 5 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] THE compliment of cane cutters that turned out to work in full force during this fateful week - the third week of the 1983 Sugar Crop, brought about the final collapse of the Labour Party/Union politicians strike-call, that was aimed at destroying the Sugar Industry. In other words, Labour's subversive call for Sugar Workers not to go to work, has failed utterly, totally and completely.

Some of us are now left to wonder if the Misleaders had seriously believed that if they had succeeded in their devious plot to wreck the Sugar Industry, thereby putting 5,000 sugar workers out of work would have brought about the downfall of the PAM/NRP Government and the return to power of the degenerate and power-crazed Labour politicians.

Labour's failure to throw this country into pandemonium and turmoil is a triumph of right over wrong, good over evil, truth over lies, facts over fiction, people over politics, courage over timidity, progress over retrogression and wisdom over folly.

Every year since the people of St. Kitts/Nevis took the reins of Government from the hands of the Labour Party after nearly thirty (30) years in office and entrusted them to the PAM/NRP leaders, the Labour Misleaders have set about to hold the country at ransom by trying to delay the start of the nations vital sugar harvest. Their latest attempt went even further but its failure has brought Labour to its knees and could well herald the end of Labour as we know it.

The Labour Party/Union Misleaders had no intention whatever to reach any reasonable agreement before the start of the 1983 Sugar Crop. They were making all sorts of extortionate, unreasonable and ridiculous demands and even while they had a team negotiating with the Management of the Sugar Industry, the Misleaders were out and about the countryside talking to sugar workers in their homes and at public gathering, trying to discourage them from going out to work and gearing them up for some sort of strike action.

This time, the Labour Misleaders made a terrible miscalculation. They thought that the Sugar Factory workers could have been persuaded to support Labour's call for a strike. The stark realization that this was not to be and the fact that Sugar Factory Workers some of whom were on the Labour Party Union's negotiating team, made sure that they were not only present at the start of the 1983 Sugar Crop, but were very punctual, were a very bitter dose of medicine that the Labour Misleaders had to painfully swallow.

For even though our Sugar Industry is suffering severe financial losses, Sugar remains the mainstay of our economy and Sugar is to St. Kitts/Nevis, what oil is to Saudi Arabia in the Middle East.

Call for Party-Union Separation

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 5 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] The 1983 Sugar Crop has been running smoothly due to the responsible and intelligent approach by the workers in the Sugar Industry, particularly the cane cutters.

It was reasoned by the Labour Party Union Politicians Lee Moore and the reject Fitzroy Bryant that. that area of the Industry was most vulnerable. And day after day, these two politicians masquerading as Trade Unionists, went on the estates commanding workers to strike.

They told the workers that help was coming from overseas if they went on strike and Lee Moore actually left and went to Miami, U.S.A. ostensibly to get help for his beleaguered and crippled Union.

In the end, all the efforts by these irresponsible, power hungry and wicked men were in vain. The sugar workers turned out in significant numbers. Over 60% in the 1st week, over 70% in the 2nd week, now 86% in the 3rd week of the Crop.

The workers in the Sugar Industry must be saluted for their courage, sound judgment and reason. They have rejected the destructive policies of the Labour Party Union Politicians whose objective is solely to regain Power at all costs. The sugar workers have responded superbly to the call made by the Premier, Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds to reap the Crop and they have accepted the Premier's analysis of the state of the Industry. By their numbers they have also demonstrated that they intend to save their livelihood from collapse. They have put the good of the Industry before self, and accepted the fact that the fortunes of the Sugar Industry are in deep peril. For this the workers must be commended.

It should be noted that the failure by the Labour Party Union to call a successful strike in the Sugar Industry has laid to rest its claim that it controls the vast majority of the workers in the Sugar Industry. The Labour Party Union can no longer claim to be the bargaining agent for the workers in the Sugar Industry.

Those genuine Trade Unionists who are interested in their jobs and the welfare of the Sugar Industry must now call for the separation of Party and Union. This must be done urgently, because it appears as if the dying politicians intend to carry as many of the genuine Trade Unionists to the grave with them.

The Labour Party leadership is a relic of the past. They are attempting to relive the 40's in the 80's. How utterly ridiculous! The strikes of the 1940's were two-fold: the workers were agitating for better working conditions and for more local participation by the indigenous people and having a greater say in the running of their affairs.

Conditions have changed immensely since the 1940's and as such different considerations must apply. These are just a few reasons why Labour's strike-call was doomed to failure from the outset.

The strike-call by the Labour Party was a test of their political strength and they have FAILED badly. Having failed in the Sugar Industry they have now shifted emphasis to Pond's Industrial Site to create industrial strife.

While it is not disputed that a Trade Union should bargain for better working conditions for its members it is also an imperative for Labour-Management relations, that a Trade Union should act responsibly. A Trade Union must take into account the global recession, the number of workers losing their jobs as a result, the closing down of factories and the general decline in the world economic situation. Having taken these factors into account, Union and Management can arrive at a fair agreement.

Workers should not allow themselves to be used by self-seeking politicians whose policy is one of destruction in order to achieve political Power. Workers everywhere owe it to themselves, their families and their country to act responsibly as the Sugar Workers in St. Kitts have just done, bless their strong hearts.

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BRIEFS

PICKETING OF VINLEC--A release from the General Secretary of the National Workers Movement drew attention to the fact that workers at, St. Vincent Electricity Service Limited were picketing outside the Vinlec Office building on Monday 28th February for the second time in four days. They had picketed the premises on Friday 25th February. The Workers were demanding that the Company recognise the National Workers Movement N.W.M. - as their bargaining agent., Since 28th December 1979 the N.W.M. has been claiming majority support among the Vinlec Workers. On December 1st 1982 most of the Workers sent a petition to the Vinlec Manager asking that the N.W.M. be recognised. The Vinlec Workers are at present unrepresented by a trade union. N.W.M. is the only union claiming majority representation. N.W.M. has expressed its willingness to accept the results of a poll conducted by the Labour Department to determine majority representation. [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 4 Mar 83 p 3]

ENVOY FROM BARBADOS--Mr. Jack Dare the recently appointed Barbadian High Commissioner to St. Vincent and the Grenadines paid a visit to the State over the weekend., He presented his letter of introduction to Prime Minister Milton Cato at his office on Monday. Mr Dare also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Sir Sydney Gun Munro at Government House., He returned to Barbados on Monday. [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 4 Mar 83 p 4]

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